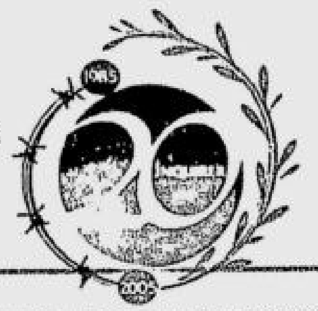
Business /B1
RP still world's text capital

World / A10
Egypt mounts big manhunt after carnage

News / A2
Original YOU tells new YOU: Been there, done that



Across / A17
Comelec warns 10,000 ARMM multiple registrants

Sports / A28
Lance rules sprint stage ahead of 7th Tour de France coronation

Lizard-like effigy ready for burning

ITO NA KAYA ANG HULING EFFIGY NYA?

By Norman Bordadora

FROM a Jack in the Box in 2001 to a tenaciously clinging lizard in 2005—that is how President Macapagal-Arroyo's image has

LIZARD-LIKE/ A20

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

PNP instructs men: Cool it, ignore taunts

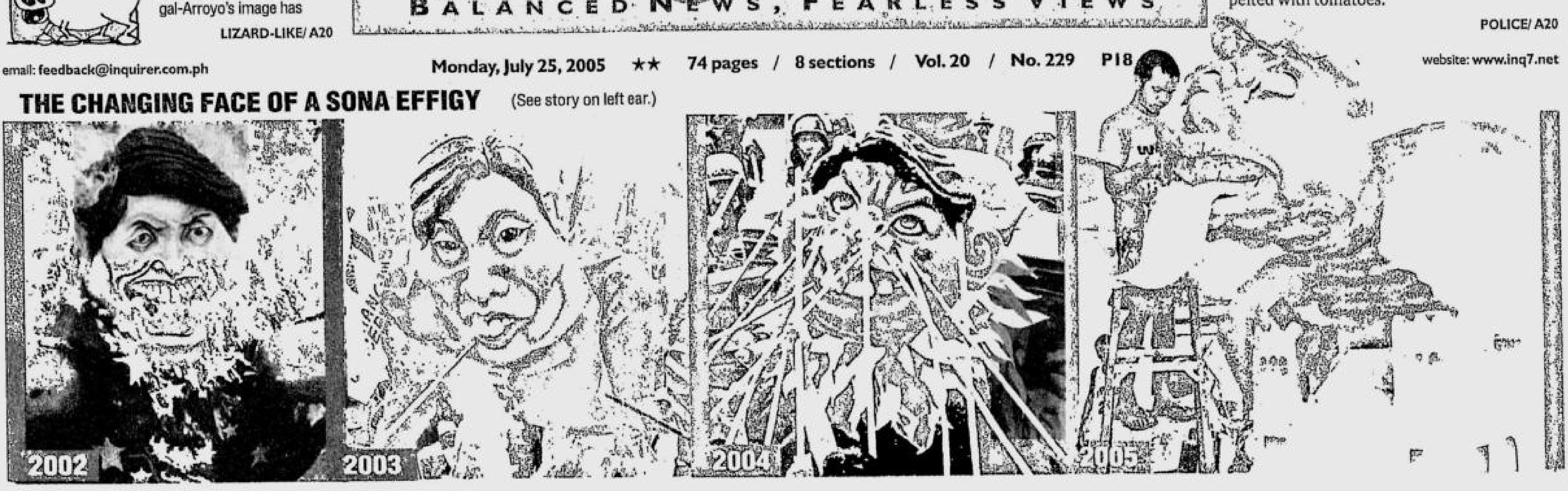
By Luige A. del Puerto and Norman Bordadora

WITH militants threatening to march by the thousands today, the advice of police to their men is clear: Cool it. Ignore the taunts because taunts don't kill. Even presidents get pelted with tomatoes.

POLICE/ A20

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph   Monday, July 25, 2005 ★★ 74 pages / 8 sections / Vol. 20 / No. 229 P18   website: www.inq7.net

THE CHANGING FACE OF A SONA EFFIGY (See story on left ear.)



12 votes short to impeach

But GMA opponents are still hopeful

By Michael Lim Ubac

AN OPPOSITION bid on the eve of the opening of Congress to impeach President Macapagal-Arroyo over election fraud charges is 12 votes shy of the required number to bring the case immediately to trial amid a warning the antagonists are locked in a deadly "zero-sum battle for power."

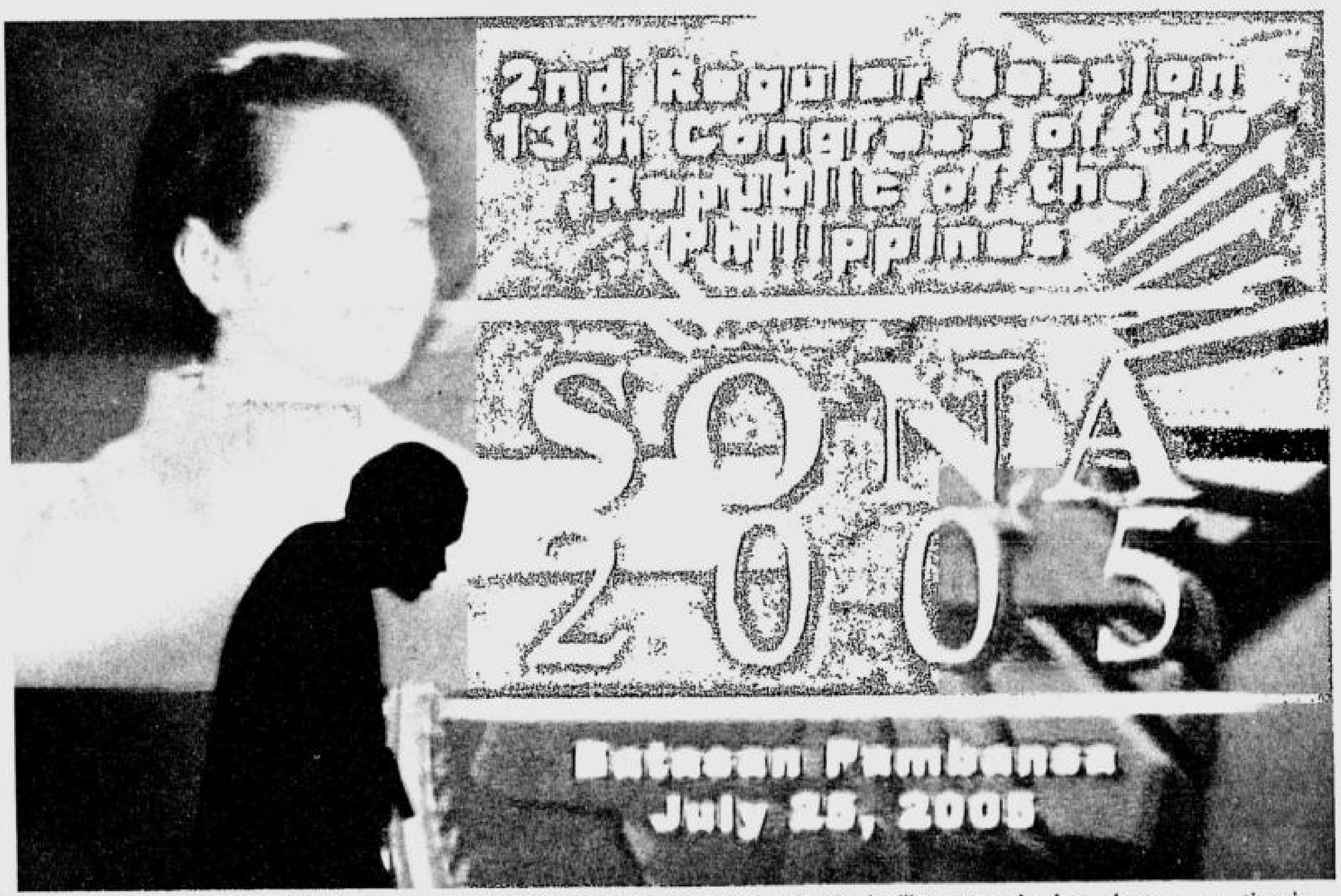
An INQUIRER head count yesterday showed 67 lawmakers had committed to support the Articles of Impeachment. The signatures of 79 representatives—or one-third of the House membership of 236—are required to speed up the case.

If the magic number of 79 votes is reached, Ms Arroyo is deemed impeached. The Articles of Impeachment will then be transmitted automatically to the Senate, which will try the President. Without the 79 votes, the impeachment complaint will just be referred to the House justice committee for action.

"It will take a miracle to reach 79 tomorrow," said Rep. Alan Peter Cayetano of Taguig, spokesperson for the House impeachment movement.

"But we are optimistic that we will get the numbers eventually ... If a reasonable mind sees our complaint, he will say, 'Ma'am, you should go'," said Cayetano.

12 VOTES/ A21


2nd Regular Session 13th Congress of the Republic of the Philippines
SONA 2005
Batasan Pambansa
July 25, 2005

A GLOW IN THE DARKNESS? Amid a seemingly dark crisis facing the country, a technician in silhouette makes last-minute preparations in the House of Representatives for Ms Arroyo's address to the nation today.
REUTERS

A challenge to the President to regain the initiative

By Amando Doronila

ANALYSIS

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo delivers today her State of the Nation Address (Sona) in a tempestuous political atmosphere that contrasts starkly with the euphoric mood in which she launched her second presidency a year ago.

Since Ms Arroyo's election in May 2004, which was expected to give her second presidency electoral legitimacy, her administration has precipitously plunged into its gravest political crisis.

As she speaks to the nation, Ms Arroyo faces a battle for political survival in an unrest not seen since 1970, when a huge demonstration attacked President Ferdinand Marcos and Imelda Marcos on the driveway of the old Congress building just after he had delivered his Sona following a smashing reelection victory in 1969.

The attack was followed by an assault on Malacañang by a student-led rabble. The Palace assault set the stage for Marcos' clampdown that led to the declaration of martial law in September 1972.

In today's Sona, Ms Arroyo is bunkered in Malacañang and she has refused to be browbeaten by pressure from her adversaries demanding her resignation. The conflict has defined the tone and theme of Sona—political survival.

At stake in the confrontation is not only regime survival but, in a larger sense, that of a democratic constitutional system whose resilience to mediate political conflict is being sorely pushed to the limit. The imperative of political survival sidelines concerns over economic disruption due to political instability.

In the 2004 Sona, Ms Arroyo faced a foreign policy crisis. Its accent was a defense of her decision to withdraw the small Filipino peacekeeping contingent from Iraq in exchange for the release of a Filipino driver held hostage by Iraqi militants.

The withdrawal provoked a major foreign policy rift with the United States over the close alignment of the Arroyo administration with US President George W. Bush's war with Iraq. Ms Arroyo's decision pulled the country out of the Bush-sponsored "alliance of the willing" in the war on terrorism.

The withdrawal was widely applauded in the country. It set the tone for a more euphoric public opinion climate as the President completed the first year of her elected presidency.

A CHALLENGE/ A4

10-POINT AGENDA

Palace rates GMA performance 'above passing'

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Michelle V. Remo

MALACAÑANG is giving President Macapagal-Arroyo a better than passing mark in fulfilling the 10-point commitment she made in her State of the Nation Address (Sona) last year, even as an administration legislator gave her failing marks in healing the wounds of Edsa revolts and the computerization of elections.

"It's quite good (her accomplishments). Look at the figures and you can see there is only a problem whenever there is a political turmoil," Rigoberto Tiglao, Presidential Management Staff chief, said.

A professor at the University of the Philippines School of Economics (UPSE) begs to disagree. Benjamin Diokno said he was giving the administration a grade of "F" (failure) in the area of job creation.

Diokno, the budget secretary during the Estrada administration, said the Arroyo administration's claim of having created more than one million jobs in the first five months of the year was artificial, given that many of the jobs were generated overseas.

"How can it be credited for the jobs, when many of the jobs were foreign? This showed that more people are going abroad because they could not find employment here," Diokno said.

The President's 10-point agenda includes the creation of six million jobs in six years; construction of new buildings, classrooms, provision of desks and chairs and books for students and scholarships to poor families; balancing of the budget;

Decentralization of projects around the nation through the use of transportation networks like the roll-on, roll-off; provision of electricity and water supply to barangays nationwide; decongestion of Metro Manila; development of Clark and Subic as the best international service and logistic centers in the region; and a just end to the peace process.

Albay Rep. Joey Salceda, the President's economic adviser and former student, gave her former professor a grade of 7.5 on a scale of 1 to 10 (with 10 being the high-

PALACE/ A8

Sona today biggest media attraction

By Michael Lim Ubac, Christine O. Avendaño and TJ Burgonio

HER OPPONENTS call it a "valedictory," but supporters dismiss this, saying it definitely will not be a "swan song."

In all certainty, President Macapagal-Arroyo's State of the Nation Address (Sona) at the joint opening of the second regular session of the 13th Congress of the Philippines will be a media blockbuster.

The speech will be covered by 1,300 media personnel, including 551 local reporters, photographers, cameramen, television crew, and representatives of 18 foreign news organizations.

It will be broadcast live by all five local TV channels, 12 radio stations and their affiliates.

"It will be the biggest Sona in terms of media since 1987," said House Deputy Secretary General Noel Albano, referring to President Corazon Aquino's inaugural address to Congress following the ouster of the dictator, Ferdinand Marcos.

Some opposition stalwarts,

SONA/ A4

45% of Sona listeners await lies, says poll

ONLY 13 percent of Filipinos, who had followed President Macapagal-Arroyo's past State of the Nation Addresses (Sona), expect her to deliver today a Sona that will reflect the country's actual state of affairs, according to results of a nationwide survey conducted by a private polling firm early this month.

Pulse Asia Inc. said 45 percent of the 59 percent of the people, who said they were aware of Ms Arroyo's past Sonas, were expecting her not to be truthful. Forty-two percent were ambivalent about the issue.

For a change, please tell the truth, Archbishop Oscar Cruz of Lingayen-Dagupan advised Ms Arroyo on the eve of her speech.

"During these times of deep political divisions, grave economic difficulties and serious social unrest, there is no more room for

45% OF SONA/ A20

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience monsoon rains. Rains will be widespread over the Western sections of Visayas and Mindanao. Central Luzon will be cloudy with rains. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rains and thunderstorms mostly in the afternoon or evening.

COMPILED BY CYRIL L. BONABENTE, PDI RESEARCH/07/25/05 SOURCE PAGASA

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Second FRONTPAGE

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Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Rains
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Rains
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Rains
Legazpi	Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Rains
Calapan	Rains	Davao	Rains

Original YOU tells new YOU: Been there, done that

By Luige A. del Puerto

FOUNDERS of the Young Officers Union yesterday gave this unsolicited advice to junior officers in the military who have reportedly revived the former rightist group: A coup will not do.

"We rebelled, we failed, we went underground, we were captured, were released, and are now (back) in the service," said Sr. Supt. Diosdado Valeroso, one of the founding members of the YOU, the group that almost succeeded in toppling down the administration of President Corazon Aquino in 1989.

"They should consider us because we know. *Galing na kami doon, at hindi talaga pupuwede ang* coup (We've been through that, and a coup won't do)," Valeroso said.

Valeroso said the young officers should allow the constitutional processes in removing a sitting president to take place.

There is no need for adventurism, especially now that "we live in a democracy," he said.

President Macapagal-Arroyo must be given her chance to defend the accusations leveled against her, say, in an impeachment trial, Valeroso said. "She's only accountable to God, and the people," he added.

A member of PMA Class '79, Valeroso's name had cropped up as one of the alleged plotters against the then months-old Arroyo administration. He was then a special assistant to the executive director of the Philippine Center on Transnational Crimes. As a result, he was transferred to Mindanao in October 2001.

On Thursday, the YOU issued a three-page manifesto announcing it was breaking a 10-year peace agreement to try and bring down President Arroyo. It accused the Arroyo administration of corruption and of rigging the 2004 presidential elections.

The YOU said Ms Arroyo has "prostituted" the PNP and AFP by using their men and resources to spy not only on enemies of the state. Short of saying the military was behind the "Gloria tapes," the YOU said Ms Arroyo has employed the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces to wiretap the conversations of some officials and individuals in 2004.

Ms Arroyo also used billions of cash recovered from the ill-gotten wealth of former president Ferdinand Marcos and government funds to buy her way into Malacañang, the group charged.

While Valeroso distanced himself from the YOU statement, the officer did not categorically dismiss the existence of the group.

"This is a shadowy (group). I can't pinpoint them, and I have not basis of saying they exist. That is why my challenge to them is they should come out in public," he said.

"When we made statements before, we (affixed) our names on it," he added.

The young officers might simply be using his group's name, according to Valeroso. "Can you govern?" he asked them.

Like them before, Valeroso said it is the tendency of young officers to "air their grievances."

"They're entitled to that... It's normal for young officers to air their grievances, just like us" he said. But officers must "stick to their jobs" and not engage in politicking.

What is clear, he said, is that the supposed YOU statement did not come from the original YOU members.

"I'm ignorant about it," he told the INQUIRER.

Earlier, Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim, former YOU chair, also disowned the YOU statement, saying the YOU disbanded in 1995 after signing a peace accord with the Ramos administration.

But Lim did not discount the possibility that disgruntled junior officers may have revived the YOU.

Formed in 1988, the YOU was a younger version of the Reform the Armed Forces Movement (RAM). The group figured in the 1989 coup attempt against Ms Aquino.

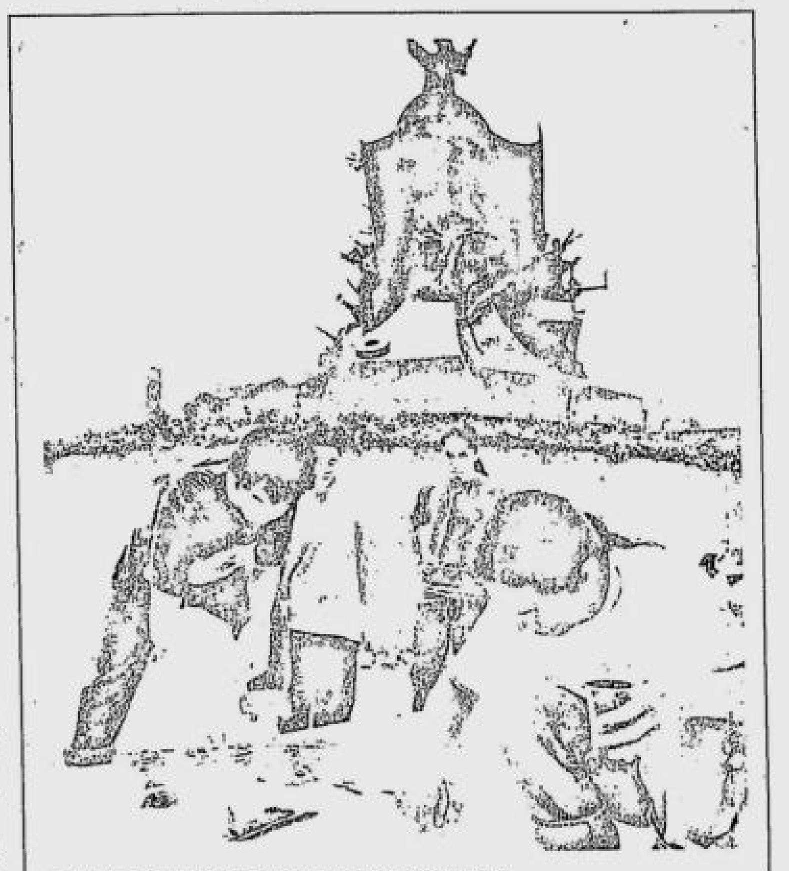
YOU forces stormed the Armed Forces's headquarters at Camp Aguinaldo, and then occupied a district in Makati City. The renegade troops were eventually subdued.

In 1992, the YOU, RAM, and the Soldiers of the Filipino People entered into a peace process and signed a peace agreement with the government in 1995.

Valeroso met with Philippine National Police chief Director General Arturo Lomibao on Friday night in Camp Crame, where they discussed the YOU statement.

Asked about that meeting, Valeroso said his impression was that the police leadership wanted to know if he were involved in drafting the statement or if he knew anything about it at all.

Yesterday, Lomibao said as far as the police, there is no such group. "We have validated it. It's negative," he said.



MURAL FOR PEACE AND UNITY
A group of Antipolo artists paints a mural for National Peace and Unity at the People Power monument in Edsa corner Temple road. *(See story on Page A 7)* LYN RILLON

Witness says 'jueteng' full blast in 3 provinces

By Christian V. Esguerra

EXPLOITING the lull in the Senate investigation, "jueteng" operations have gone "full blast" in a number of provinces, including parts of Metro Manila, according to a witness of anti-gambling crusader Lingayen-Dagupan Archbishop Oscar Cruz.

Confessed former bagman Richard Garcia told the INQUIRER yesterday that jueteng operators are back in business in the whole of Quezon, Laguna and Nueva Ecija.

"They've gone back to their old ways and they're just laughing at us," he said in Filipino. Garcia, and fellow witnesses Sandra Cam, Wifredo "Boy" Mayor, and Demosthenes Riva had implicated ranking government officials in jueteng operations.

Garcia, who exposed the names of alleged operators in his testimonies before the Senate inquiry, said the operators were encouraged by their "realization that the investigation was just a vaudeville or moro-moro."

"They were expecting that the Senate investigation will not resume anymore and the issue will be forgotten again," he said.

Garcia, who stays in a safe house provided by Cruz's Krusadang Bayan Laban sa Jueteng, said he remained in touch with men and women still involved in jueteng operations in several areas nationwide.

He said they regularly update him on the status of the illegal numbers game.

According to Garcia, jueteng operations had also resumed in almost half of Cavite courtesy of a known relative of a high-ranking official in the province.

The same was true in parts of Batangas, Zambales, and Bataan. Operations in Nueva Ecija resumed last July 15 while those in Nueva Vizcaya never really stopped despite a recent government crackdown, he said.

Bicol, a traditional haven for jueteng collection, also saw a resurgence of the underground lottery particularly in Sorsogon and in remote areas in neighboring provinces, he said.

In Metro Manila, he said, jueteng has resurrected in the form of "guerrilla" operations or the government-sanctioned EZ2 lottery, a purportedly new cover for the popular but illegal numbers game.

"Bet collectors are instructed to just show EZ2 tickets whenever they're arrested," he explained. "That way, police would have no reason to send them to jail because on the surface, they're not engaged in anything illegal."

BIR memo draws flak from revenue officers

By Michelle V. Remo

THE APPOINTED officer-in-charge of the Bureau of Internal Revenue Jose Mario Buñag has issued a memorandum expanding his powers in the large taxpayers division, a move which has allegedly created discomfort among the agency's personnel.

Under Revenue Memorandum Order No. 17-2005, all letters of authority and other notices issued by the large taxpayers division shall be signed by Buñag.

Letters of authority are documents authorizing revenue personnel to investigate the tax remittance of a taxpayer, usually a suspected tax evader. Prior to the memorandum, issuing letters of authority concerning large taxpayers was delegated to the deputy commissioner.

The large taxpayers division collects taxes from large companies, such as those in the top 10,000 corporations.

Sources said revenue officers have questioned Buñag's move to take full control of the large taxpayers division.

Buñag denied charges that he wanted to "monopolize power" in the said division. In an interview with reporters during a forum with the economic team last week, Buñag said the memorandum simply meant that he wanted to monitor large taxpayers, since they account for 60 percent of BIR's total revenue collection.

Aside from issuing the memorandum, Buñag also withdrew his statement that the government was willing to compromise with people charged under the Run After Tax Evaders (RATE) program.

False fire alarm delays JAL flight

A JAPAN Airlines (JAL) flight bound for Narita, Japan made an emergency landing at 3:05 p.m yesterday at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia) after the fire indicator flashed on the plane's auxiliary power unit.

After a couple of hours' inspection by JAL mechanics, Flight 742 was cleared for take off and left at 5:32 p.m., Judith Dolot, chief of the public affairs office of the Manila International Airport Authority (Miaa) said.

Despite the indicator, no fire or smoke was seen coming from the plane, a Boeing 747-300., Octavio Lina, Jr., Miaa operations manager said.

"There was no actual fire," Lina told the INQUIRER.

The flight's 308 passengers and 20 crew members were asked to disembark while mechanics inspected the aircraft, Lina said.

The aircraft had taken off from the Naia at 2:43 p.m.

Fifteen minutes later, its pilot, Capt. Takeshita Takashi, radioed the Naia tower requesting for an emergency landing. *Nikko Dizon*

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Drilon maintains grip on top Senate post for now

By TJ Burgonio

DRILON: The target

SANTIAGO: The wannabe

AS THE Senate convenes its second regular session of the 13th Congress today, Senate President Franklin Drilon is certain to keep his grip on the chamber's top post unless a colleague pulls off a surprise and moves to declare the position vacant.

Drilon, facing a political backlash for leading the Liberal Party's breakaway from President Macapagal-Arroyo, himself said yesterday he was not aware of any move to unseat him on the opening day.

"I don't expect anything unusual on opening day," he said in a brief phone interview when asked if he expected Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago to pull off a surprise on the chamber's first day.

"But as I've said, the Senate presidency is the will of the 13 senators," he added.

Santiago, a staunch ally of Ms Arroyo, is believed to be Malacañang's bet to replace Drilon. Last year, she pulled off a surprise when she voted for Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr., not Drilon, for Senate President.

Senate Pro Tempore Juan Flavier, for his part, said he doesn't expect anybody to raise a motion declaring the Senate presidency and other major posts vacant during the opening ceremonies at 10 a.m. today.

"It's impossible to elect a new Senate President on Monday; it will just be an opening ceremony," Flavier said in an interview. "If at all, fireworks will begin on Tuesday. Otherwise, we'll just proceed with our legislative agenda."

Some senators, however, did not rule out the possibility of a colleague raising a motion to declare the Senate presidency vacant on the first day.

"I really don't know whether there will be a motion to revamp. If there is, that will be debated and can be acted upon. Everything depends on the numbers," Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said. "That's possible," he admitted.

Flavier, however, voiced doubts if anybody from any bloc in the chamber could muster the 13 votes needed to unseat Drilon.

He stressed that the rest of the 10-man majority and Drilon's party mates, Senate Majority Leader Francis Pangilinan, Rodolfo Biazon and Manuel "Mar" Roxas II are solidly behind him.

"Anybody who can get 13 votes becomes the new Senate President. If not, it's status quo," Flavier, a close ally of the President, said, even as he stressed that he was not aware of any move to unseat Drilon. "If there are moves, it will be unusual not to call me first."

"I think we are not in the mood for that now. Maybe later on," Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr. said.

Flavier also said that Drilon continued to enjoy the support of Malacañang, saying "So far that's the case that can also change in time.'

After Drilon's call to order, the senators are expected to tackle the day's single agenda—arrangements for the President's State of the Nation Address before the joint session of Congress at the Batasang Pambansa in the afternoon.

At today's session, Drilon is also expected to give a "small talk" to his colleagues and explain the LP's breakaway and assure the public that the chamber would remain an "independent institution," a reliable source said.

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Pinoy missing in Mekong bridge accident identified

By Nikko Dizon

A FILIPINO engineer was among those reported missing after a crane used to build a bridge linking Thailand and Laos collapsed on Friday, the Department of Foreign Affairs said yesterday.

The death toll from the accident rose to five Sunday, with four more workers missing and feared drowned in the Mekong river, police said.

DFA spokesperson Gilberto Asuque identified the Filipino as Federic Guerrero Natasa.

"As of now, he is still considered missing because they have yet to identify the bodies that have been recovered," Asuque said, after receiving the latest reports from the Philippine Embassy in Bangkok shortly after noon.

Jasper Revilla, an attaché from the Philippine Embassy consular section, has been sent to the area to monitor the rescue operations and update the DFA of developments, Asuque said.

Asuque said Revilla is working closely with representatives of Sumitomo Company of Japan, the project contractor, in trying to find Natasa.

Asuque added that Natasa's wife has already been notified and is now in Thailand, while the DFA continues to process travel documents for Natasa's brother.

So far rescuers have recovered the bodies of two Thais and two Laotians.

The body of Japanese engineer identified as Hitoshi Tanaka was earlier recovered.

Police Lt. Col. Prompan Utamung told AFP three of the bodies were found up to three kilometers downriver while the fourth was found 50 km downriver in Amnat Charoen province.

Marine units were searching the Mekong river for a Filipino worker, a Japanese, a Laotian and a Thai who are still missing, but swift currents and murky water following heavy rain were hampering their efforts.

The Japanese engineer was the first fatality reported in the incident that took place late Friday on the Thai side of the border in the northeastern province of Mukdahan. At least 11 people were injured—two Japanese, six Laotians and three Thais. *With AFP report*

120 kg of ammonium nitrate seized at port

THE PHILIPPINE Coast Guard has seized 120 kilos of ammonium nitrate, an ingredient used in bomb-making, kept in four abandoned boxes left on a ship docked at the Manila North Harbor.

The regulated substance, which was supposed to be sent to Coron, Palawan, was discovered on Saturday afternoon aboard the M/V Asuncion XI of the San Nicholas Shipping Lines during an inspection of the ship by the PCG and its sea marshals.

The vessel was docked at the Pier 2, Isla Puting Bato at the Manila North Harbor.

PCG personnel found the name "Tess" written on the boxes where the ammonium nitrates were kept. The owner of the shipment is still unknown.

According to a PCG report, the confiscated items are "already processed or finished product ready to be used as explosives as soon as blasting caps are introduced."

Ammonium nitrate is included in the list of controlled or regulated chemicals, the shipment or transport of which should be covered by a permit from the Philippine National Police's Firearms and Explosives Division, the PCG added. *Leila B. Salaverria*

9 Filipino flying voters caught in Indonesia

JAKARTA—Indonesian police arrested Sunday nine Philippine nationals for voting in a local election on the island of Sulawesi, a report said.

The nine, aged between 35 and 48, admitted taking part in the vote for the mayor and vice mayor of Bitung town on Thursday despite not holding Indonesian citizenship, Antara said, citing Bitung police chief Ahsanur Rozimi.

Rozimi said the nine possessed Indonesian ID cards, adding that police would be investigating how they obtained them.

North Sulawesi shares a porous maritime border with the southern part of the Philippines. *AFP*

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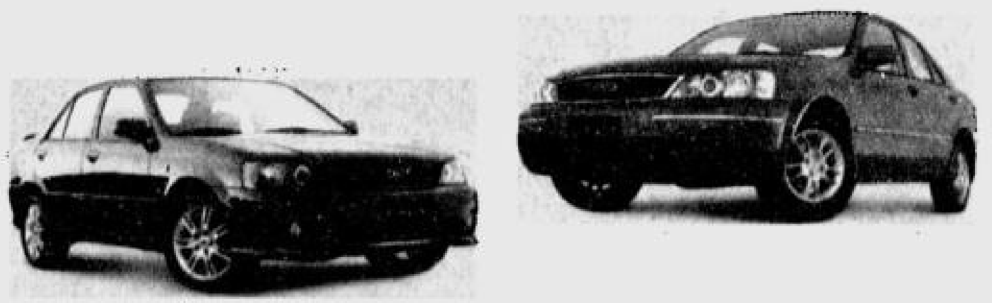

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Sona today biggest media blockbuster

From page A1

however, will not be at the Batasan to hear the President speak.

"We won't be there to listen to more lies. It would be a waste of precious time," said Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr.

Pimentel said he, along with Senators Alfredo Lim, Loi Ejercito, Jinggoy Estrada, Jamby Madrigal and Panfilo Lacson, would stay away from the Batasan complex.

With an opposition threat of impeachment over allegations Ms Arroyo rigged last year's election, Pimentel said her Sona today would be her "valedictory address."

"We bid her goodbye," said Pimentel.

The minority in the House, including those who had committed to signing the impeachment complaint, will also boycott the Batasan today.

"It's a symbolic gesture to show that the President, representing the Filipino people, can't just come to the House and lie to us to our face," said Rep. Alan Peter Cayetano of Taguig, the deputy senior minority leader.

Majority Leader Prospero Nograles said the President's speech would not be a "swan song."

'Beat the odds'

"The nation is divided, but I'm confident she will beat the odds. Those who want her out do not yet have the necessary numbers. Let the impeachment process go through without having to bring the entire country down," said Nograles.

A Malacañang official said Ms Arroyo's Sona would be "short, tame and prudent."

"It's not a speech that is defensive, but it's also not offensive," said the official, who asked not to be identified. The official said during a meeting with her Cabinet secretaries on Friday, Ms Arroyo took time to discuss with them highlights of her speech and get inputs from them.

"We do not get to see the final draft until shortly before the President delivers her speech," said Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye.

The official said that in an early draft, Ms Arroyo talked about her dismay in the decision of the National Democratic Front to pull out from the peace process to end the three decade-long communist insurgency. The communist-led NDF is an umbrella organization comprising left-wing groups and the New People's Army, the Communist Party's armed wing.

Constitutional amendments

Ms Arroyo's support of constitutional amendments was also mentioned in the early draft, but the official said the Chief Executive would say that Congress would have to take the lead on this.

"She doesn't want to be presumptuous," the official said.

Some Cabinet officials suggested that Ms Arroyo speak about the conspiracies to bring down her administration, while others said she should not close the door to reconciling with her opponents, the official said.

Bunye said his "educated guess" was that Ms Arroyo's speech would outline her "vision and how it will be implemented by her reform plan."

"The President will speak about phase two of the reform program," Bunye said. "More reforms, better collections, anticorruption and less red tape will remain the hallmarks of the administration just as new investments in infrastructure and programs will create jobs and bring a better quality of life to the people of the Philippines," he added.

Environment Secretary Michael Defensor said in a phone interview he was certain Ms Arroyo would mention the current political turmoil in her speech, "but I just don't know the treatment."

Before the Sona, both chambers of Congress will open session at 10 a.m.

De Venecia agenda

Speaker Jose de Venecia, after transmitting the impeachment complaint to the House justice committee, would also push for Charter reform through a constituent assembly of Congress, shift to a unicameral parliament, strengthening of the civil service, swift action on the unfinished business of the last session, and a debt-for-equity in development program to help debt-riddled nations, including the Philippines, achieve the UN Millennium Development Goal of halving poverty by 2015.

WAKASAN
ANG

MUSLIMS living in Maharlika Village in Taguig voice out their problems under the Arroyo administration during a rally on the eve of the President's State of the Nation Address. ERIK ARAZAS

De Venecia said he would also underscore in his opening speech the need to modernize the country's political parties "to make them more efficient channels of popular expression, and more effective agencies of representative and responsive government."

"Enlightened national opinion now agrees the divided government produced unavoidably by the checks and balances of the presidential system we had borrowed from the Americans simply cannot work in the context of our present-day politics," he said.

Senate President Franklin Drilon, who withdrew his support for Ms Arroyo on July 8 in the midst of demands for her resignation, and De Venecia will welcome Ms Arroyo to the session hall.

"I will welcome her as the host. I will perform my constitutional duty," said Drilon. "It will be business as usual."

Administration senators are attending the Sona not merely to rally behind the embattled President, but to listen to her legislative agenda.

"I'd rather listen to her in person. I want to hear her spell out her priorities which the Senate could act on," said Senate Pro Tempore Juan Flavier.

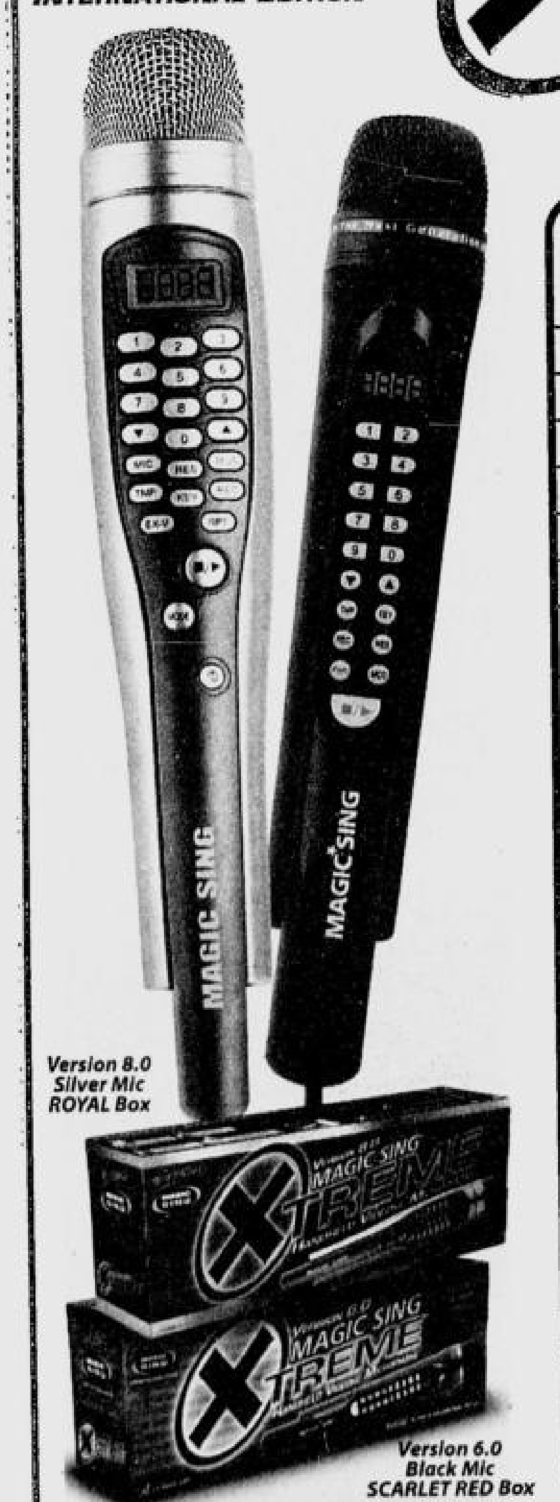
Respect for presidency

"This is not necessarily a show of support for the President; it's a show of respect for the presidency," independent Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr., who had earlier urged the President to institute reforms to save the presidency, said in an interview.

"We'd like her to do her best. We'll listen on what she wants us to do and we want to help. This is not partisanship; this involves the national interest."

Magsaysay, however, said it would be prudent for Ms Arroyo to skirt the wiretapping scandal, which set off calls for her to make the "supreme sacrifice" and relinquish her post to Vice President Noli de Castro.

"I think she should not talk about that. She already admitted that it was her voice on the tape. It's up to the impeachment court to decide what to do with her presidency," he said, stressing he would rather that the President elucidate on her socioeconomic policies for the next 12 months in her address.



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A challenge to GMA to regain the initiative

From page A1

Today, the euphoria has evaporated. By contrast, Ms Arroyo faces the hostility of a large segment of the nation, seething with political unrest.

Although she was elected with a margin of 1.3 million votes in the May 2004 election over her closest rival, she faces the threat of impeachment in Congress over allegations that she cheated in the balloting.

She delivers her speech after surviving a near collapse of her administration on July 7 following the defection of 10 of her senior officials as well as the intervention by civil society leaders—including former President Corazon Aquino—and the President's erstwhile allies in the business community.

The impeachment threat looms as the darkest storm cloud hovering over the embattled administration although Ms Arroyo has survived demands for her resignation, which have now seemed to have lost steam after the politically influential Roman Catholic Church slammed the brakes on the resignation drive.

Normally, a document that defines the roadmap of government initiatives for the next fiscal year, the Sona is being awaited for its contents giving a chart of policy directions and reforms.

Amid the crisis, the political atmosphere has assumed more importance than the text of the Sona. It has been sidetracked by the most critical issue concerning the survival of the Arroyo administration, which has been under siege during the past two months over the disclosure of wiretapped conversations allegedly showing the President had tried to tamper with the election results and over the "jueteng" scandal in which her close relatives had allegedly received payoffs from illegal gambling operators.

Challenge to GMA

There is heightened public interest in how the President can use the Sona as a bully pulpit to lift the siege of demands for her resignation. The challenge on her part is how to regain the initiative that will allow her to stay in office until the end of her term in 2010 and enable her to implement her fiscal reform program and 10-point economic agenda.

Although the infrastructure of these programs is already in place, supported by key legislation, including the expanded value-added tax reform, the survival issue has distracted the nation's attention and energy from the fiscal deficit crisis.

There is rising public concern that the conflict over how the President would be unseated could lead to extra-constitutional solutions, including another people power, and worst of all military intervention to break the stalemate.

Proving that her opponents had underestimated her political capital and the reserve powers of the presidency, Ms Arroyo has received badly needed institutional support from Catholic bishops who have spurned the resignation call, from the military which has declared neutrality, and from most provincial and municipal officials who have decided to stand by her.

Such support has allowed Ms Arroyo to counter efforts of her foes to mobilize mass support for the resign movement. The strong institutional rally behind the President has been credited to her capacity to blunt the pressure from the streets and on the failure of her opponents to stage massive demonstrations.

Impeachment

There is fear that the next legislative agenda will be dominated by the crisis, setting aside new legislative initiatives directed at strengthening the economy.

As Congress resumes session after hearing the Sona, its calendar of business has already been preempted by an impeachment case being prepared by the opposition against Ms Arroyo.

The crisis has sparked a political realignment in Congress, following the withdrawal of support by the Liberal Party from the majority coalition in both the House of Representatives and the Senate.

This realignment foreshadows a season of turbulence in this session of Congress and instability in the Senate over the impeachment issue.

With Ms Arroyo's credibility damaged by the scandals engulfing her administration, there is heightened interest over what dramatic initiatives she can offer to enable her to govern effectively.

UK, Canada issue travel advisory vs RP

By Nikko Dizon

THE UNITED Kingdom and Canada have discouraged its citizens from traveling to the Philippines, particularly Mindanao, citing reports of terrorist threats and possible kidnapping attempts against foreign nationals.

In their new travel advisories, both governments warned that the terrorists could launch attacks "anytime, anywhere" in the Philippines.

"There is a high threat from terrorism throughout the Philippines. We continue to believe that terrorists are planning attacks against both Philippine and Western interests," the British government's Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) said on its website, www.fco.gov.uk.

In particular, the British government advised its citizens against traveling to Central, Southern and Western Mindanao, and the Sulu archipelago including Basilan, Tawi-Tawi and Jolo.

"We believe that terrorists and criminal elements are in the advanced stages of planning to kidnap foreign tourists from the islands and coastal areas south of Panay in the southern Philippines. Boats traveling to and from offshore islands and dive sites are possible targets," it said.

The Canadian government, on the other hand, advised its citizens against traveling to the Sulu archipelago, Zamboanga peninsula, and areas in west and southwest Mindanao.

"You are advised against all travel to the other areas of Mindanao unless you have critical or compelling business or family reasons… Canadians in the Philippines should exercise extreme caution and security awareness, especially in commetcial and public establishments, in tourist areas frequented by foreigners, and on public transportation," the Canada's consular affairs section said on its website, www.voyage.gc.ca.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Monday, July 25, 2005
James, Apostle

1st Reading:	2 Cor 4:7-15
Gospel:	Matthew 20:20-28

The mother of James and John came to Jesus with her sons, and she knelt down to ask a favor. Jesus said to her, "What do you want?" And she answered, "Here you have my two sons. Grant that they may sit, one at your right and one at your left, when you are in your kingdom."

Jesus said to the brothers, "You do not know what you are asking. Can you drink the cup that I am about to drink?" They answered, "We can." Jesus replied, "You will indeed drink my cup, but to sit at my right or at my left is not for me to grant. That will be for those for whom the Father has prepared it."

The other ten heard all this and were angry with the two brothers. Then Jesus called them to him and said, "You know that the rulers of the nations act as tyrants, and the powerful oppress them. It shall not be so among you; whoever wants to be more important in your group shall make himself your servant. And if you want to be first, make yourself the servant of all. Be like the Son of Man who has come, not to be served but to serve and to give his life to redeem many."

Commentary

Surprisingly many of the stories about individual apostles are not exactly what you'd want to be remembered for! Here James (and John) send their mother in to get Jesus to give them the best seats in the kingdom when he's king! And this happens just after Jesus has invited all of the disciples to walk with him on the road to the cross and share his rejection and suffering and they ignore him. He asks them if they can drink the cup and be baptized in the cross-they off-handedly say yes, not having a clue what they are getting into. And they do-after the Resurrection and the gifting of the Spirit's power, but they must first learn to be servants, the least bending before all others as Jesus does-and give their life for the ransom of many. James is the first to be martyred of the twelve, the brother of the Lord, but what made him holy was that he learned what true love is-to lay down your life so that others may believe and be strengthened to follow Jesus. Jesus is still inviting us to share intimacy with him-and his suffering with those who walk the way of the cross today.

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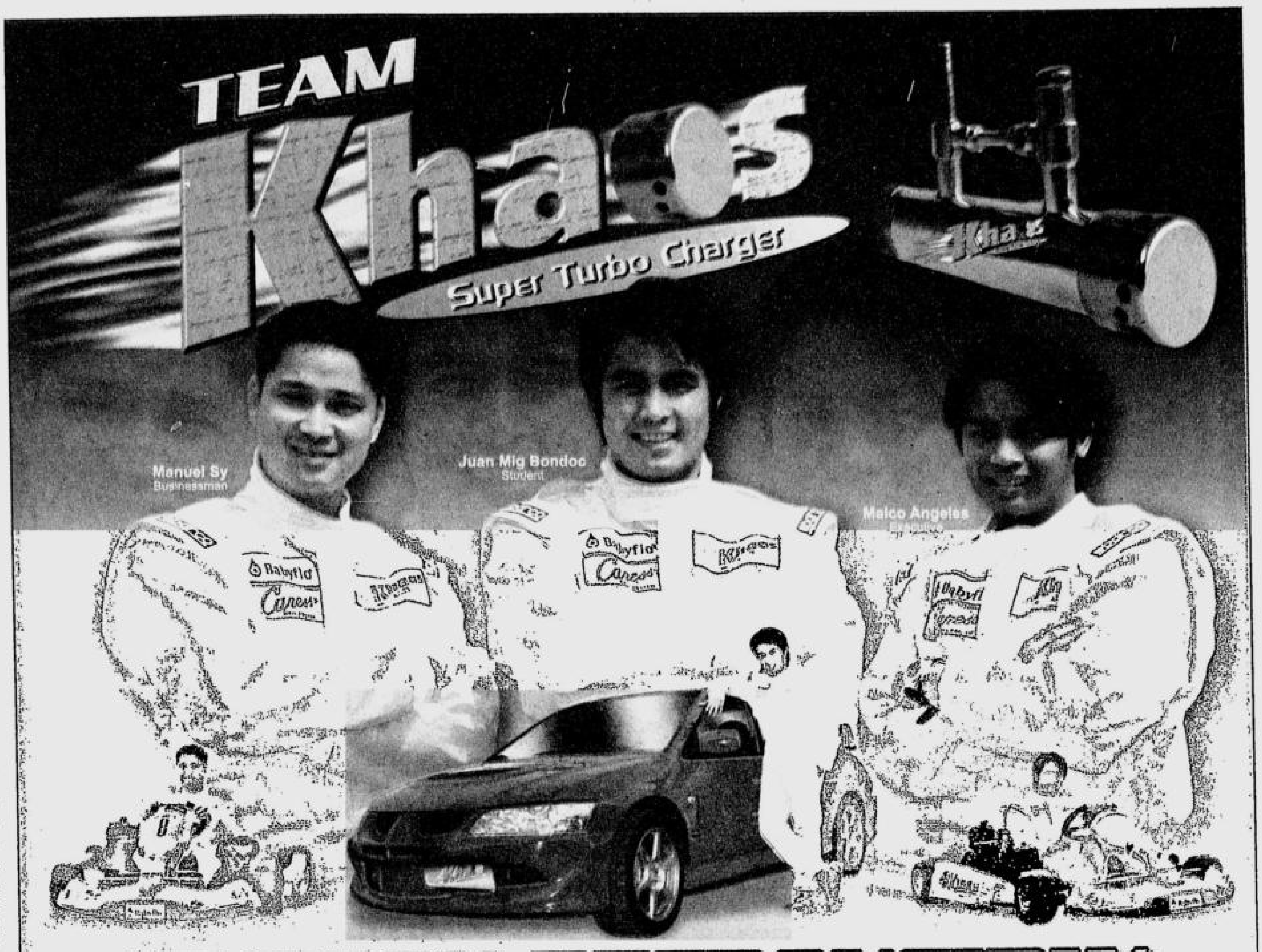

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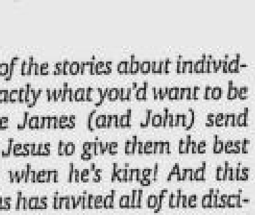
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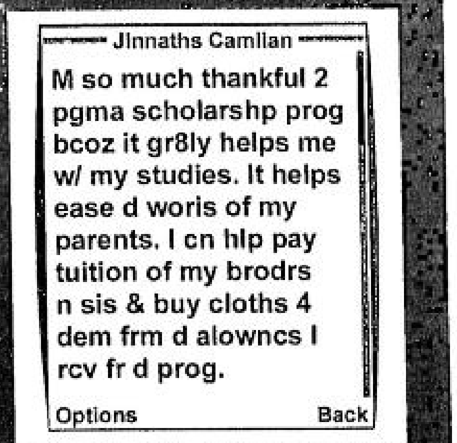
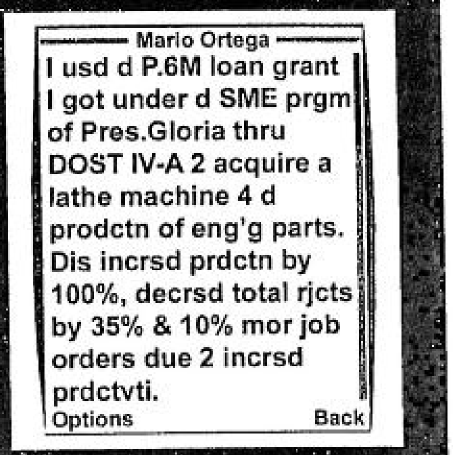

Jinnaths Camlian

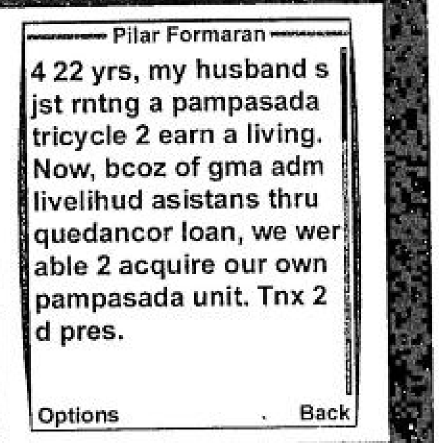
M so much thankful 2 pgma scholarshp prog bcoz it gr8ly helps me w/ my studies. It helps ease d woris of my parents. I cn hlp pay tuition of my brodrs n sis & buy cloths 4 dem frm d alowncs I rcv fr d prog.

- Jinnaths Camlian, 20
a Tausug resident
of Maluso, Basilan


Mario Ortega

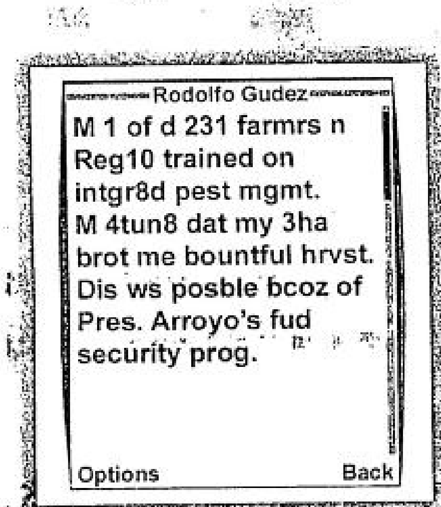
I usd d P.6M loan grant I got under d SME prgm of Pres.Gloria thru DOST IV-A 2 acquire a lathe machine 4 d prodctn of eng'g parts. Dis incrsd prdctn by 100%, decrsd total rjcts by 35% & 10% mor job orders due 2 incrsd prdctvti.

- Mario B. Ortega
Industrial and Eng'g. Works
San Pablo City, Laguna


Pilar Formaran

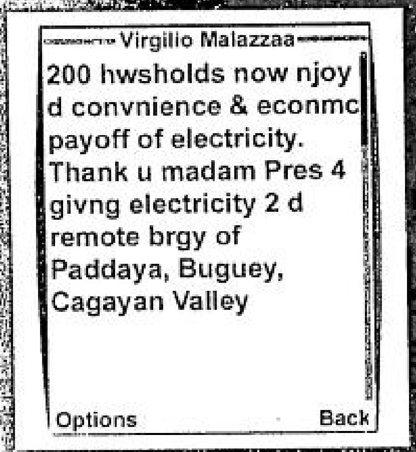
4 22 yrs, my husband s jst rntng a pampasada tricycle 2 earn a living. Now, bcoz of gma adm livelihud asistans thru quedancor loan, we wer able 2 acquire our own pampasada unit. Tnx 2 d pres.

- Pilar Formaran
Caraga


Rodolfo Gudez

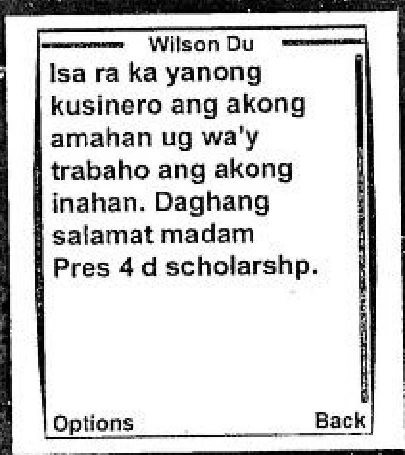
M 1 of d 231 farmrs n Reg10 trained on intgr8d pest mgmt. M 4tun8 dat my 3ha brot me bountful hrvst. Dis ws posble bcoz of Pres. Arroyo's fud security prog.

- Rodolfo Gudez, 49
Brgy. Nabag-o, Valencia City
Bukidnon


Virgilio Malazzaa

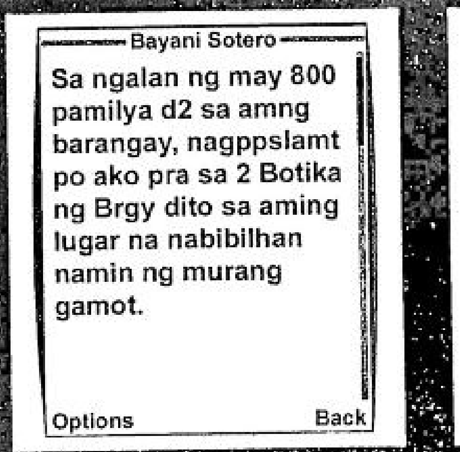
200 hwsholds now njoy d convnience & econmc payoff of electricity. Thank u madam Pres 4 givng electricity 2 d remote brgy of Paddaya, Buguey, Cagayan Valley

- Virgilio Malazzaa
Brgy. Captain, Brgy. Paddaya
Buguey, Cagayan Valley


Wilson Du

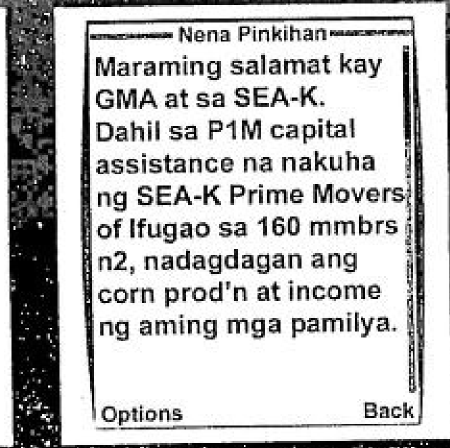
Isa ra ka yanong kusinero ang akong amahan ug wa'y trabaho ang akong inahan. Daghang salamat madam Pres 4 d scholarshp.

- Wilson Du, 21
3rd Yr IT student
Cebu State College of Science & Tech


Bayani Sotero

Sa ngalan ng may 800 pamilya d2 sa amng barangay, nagppslamt po ako pra sa 2 Botika ng Brgy dito sa aming lugar na nabibilhan namin ng murang gamot.

- Bayani Sotero
kagawad ng Brgy. Pada-Pada
Sta. Ignacia, Tarlac


Nena Pinkihan

Maraming salamat kay GMA at sa SEA-K. Dahil sa P1M capital assistance na nakuha ng SEA-K Prime Movers of Ifugao sa 160 mmbrs n2, nadagdagan ang corn prod'n at income ng aming mga pamilya.

- Nena Pinkihan
pangulo ng SEA-K Prime Movers
ng Ifugao

Hindi nakakainip ang biyahe, aircon ang loob, malinis, at mura ang pagkain kumpara sa fastcraft.

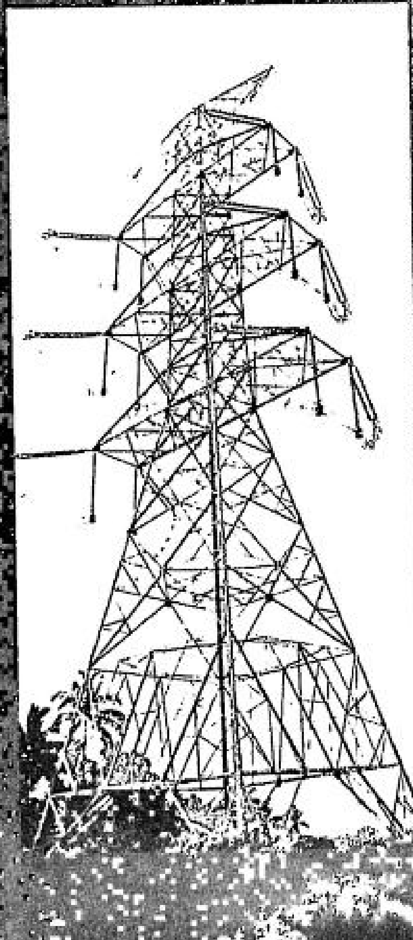
- Annaliza Antenor, 21
regular na pasahero ng RORO
Halaw mula sa People's Journal
Feb. 22, 2004

Dati, puro kerosene lamps. Walang namamalantsa kasi ang plantsa na de-uling, nakakadumi ng damit. Ngayon, unang-una, maliwanag na. Wala nang itim-itim na mga ceiling. Dumami na ang TV. Talagang unti-unting pumapatas na rin sa normal na buhay sa baba (bayan).

- Mario Sib-At
Brgy. Captain ng Palale, Nueva Ecija
Halaw mula sa Pinoy Ang Galing! People's Tonight
April 11, 2004

From a sari-sari store she put up in 2000, Maria Etongan of Vigan City, a handicapped housewife, is now renting two convenient stalls at the Vigan Public Market, thanks to the SEA-K Program of Pres. Arroyo. She now heads the Vigan Differently-Abled Association as pioneer president.

From the Ilocos Herald
July 19, 2005



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Data Sources:

The Office of the President and The Philippine Information Agency

Oman cracks down on illegal aliens; overstaying Pinoys told to go home

By Leila B. Salaverria and Nikko Dizon

LABOR OFFICIALS have urged undocumented or overstaying Filipinos in Oman to return to the Philippines because of the sultanate's impending crackdown on undesirable foreigners.

The Royal Oman Police (ROP) is set to begin the crackdown after the Aug. 19, 2005 deadline for undocumented foreigners to leave, according to a report of Oman-based labor attaché Eleuterio Cojuangco to the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE).

According to Cojuangco's estimates, there could be between 2,300 to 2,500 undocumented Filipinos in Oman.

The Philippine Overseas Employment Administration reported there were 4,279 documented Filipinos there in 2004.

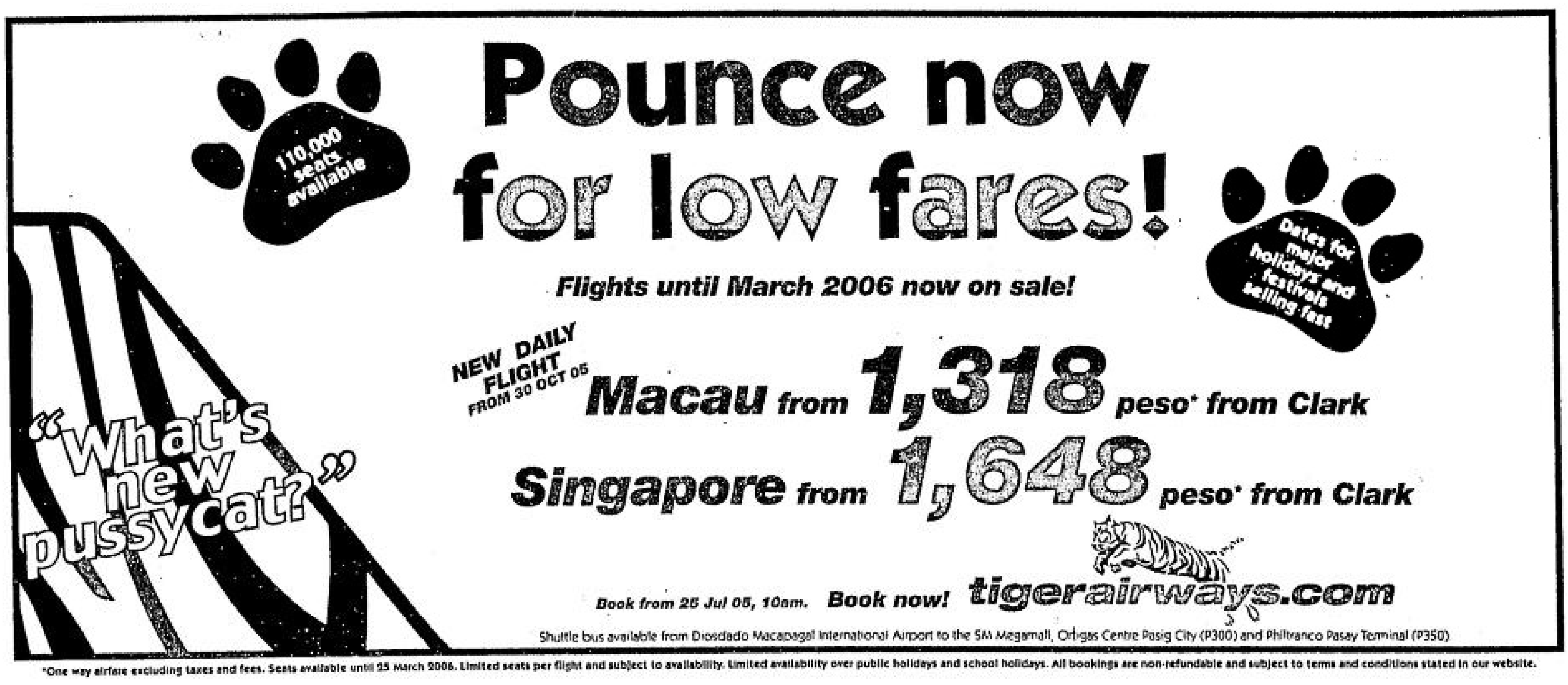
In his report, Cojuangco said Filipinos in Oman were encouraged to voluntarily leave the sultanate before the Aug. 19 deadline to avoid detention by the ROP. He said the Philippine Overseas Labor Office (POLO) and the Philippine Embassy staff would be willing to help the Filipinos. They had also started to inform OFWs about the crackdown.

At the same time, Philippine Ambassador Acmad Omar, along with other countries, was lobbying for an extension of the deadline and amnesty for the workers, Cojuangco said.

The ROP also announced that overstaying foreigners who depart on or before Aug. 19 would only be fined, upon their departure from the Al Seeb International Airport, but they would not be detained or charged with violating Oman's immigration laws.

In a related development, the Malaysian government is set to implement new rules in hiring foreign workers, including OFWs, the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) said.

The new rules, set to be implemented starting Aug. 1, would expedite the employment processing of OFWs, Chargé d' Affaires Luis Cruz of the Philippine Embassy in Kuala Lumpur said.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OUST
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DOWN

CRITICS of President Macapagal-Arroyo give no doubt about how they feel toward her on the eve of her State of the Nation Address. Front row, from left: Dr. Reynaldo Lesaca, Rep. Satur Ocampo, Liwayway Vinzons-Chato. Second row: Elmer Labog, movie actor Rez Cortez, activist Ronald Lumbao (partly hidden) and Ver Eustaquio. LYN RILLON

Palace rates GMA ...

From page A1

est), slightly lower from the 7.8 grade he gave her last year.

"Using the 'beat the odds' as criteria, the President had two major failings out of 10 Sona commitments—healing the wounds of Edsa 1 to 3 and electoral computerization," said Salceda.

"Overall, there was substantial compliance [with] ... the Sona commitments and deficit reduction [give assurance that] ... their accomplishment as it creates fiscal space via low interest rates to spend for big ticket infrastructure and expansion of social services," he said.

Lingering doubts

Malacañang had expected that the President's success in getting a fresh six-year mandate would tighten her hold on power but lingering doubts about her alleged rigging of the elections have weakened her position.

Her weakened position stemmed partly from her failure to computerize last year's elections that some critics said could have made the polling and counting not only faster but more transparent and credible.

Salceda noted that the President fell short of her program to bring electricity to all villages in the country with only 20 percent of her target reached as of June 30 this year.

The President, however, excelled in taming the budget deficit (which hit P67 billion as of June this year compared with the P97 billion target for the same period) and boosting education (some 11,000 classrooms were built or nearly double the average of 6,000).

Spending compression

Diokno said that while the government was able to reduce the budget deficit, its strategy was more of tightening spending rather than substantially increasing revenue collection.

"While it has recorded a surplus (in April and May), it is not sustainable because for the last five years, the government has been on a spending compression. It has not been spending enough for education and basic services," he said.

Diokno described the surplus as "abnormal," saying that the delay in the passage of the 2005 budget resulted in delays in the programming of expenditures. The 2005 national budget was approved only in March.

Diokno said education, health services and infrastructure were the main casualties of the government's tight spending.

Government spending for infrastructure has only been slightly above one percent of the gross domestic product (GDP), a figure, which, he said, was insufficient to meet the requirements of a country with a 2.3-percent population growth rate.

Diokno said the government's spending for infrastructure should be at least 4 percent of the country's GDP.

Revenues and corruption

The Arroyo administration also promised eight revenue measures to improve the fiscal situation, but only three so far have been passed, he noted, adding that the sin tax law was even watered down, and the expanded value-added tax law poorly prepared, therefore making it subject to legal questions.

On the area of curbing corruption, Diokno said, "The President has not done enough in this area, considering that presidential relatives are even the subject of corruption allegations," he said.

While the government has been conducting lifestyle checks, he said no one had been put behind bars.

On track

The National Economic and Development Authority (Neda) said the country was on track to meet its development goals.

In the accomplishment report it prepared, Neda said the government was able to reduce cases of extreme poverty and hunger from 34.5 percent of the country's population in 1990 to 27.6 percent in 2004.

It also noted the 6.1-percent GDP growth in 2004 was the highest economic growth in 15 years.

In the area of education, Neda reported that 10,765 classrooms had been built since July last year, and that a total of 1,273 school buildings had been constructed from 2001 to March this year.

The government was also able to meet the target of having a 1:1 student-textbooks ratio at least from the elementary to second-year high school levels. It added that about 2,000 families benefited from the administration's "Iskolar ng Mahihirap na Pamilya" program.

"One of the greatest achievements is in the fiscal program," Neda Director General Augusto Santos said. The agency noted that the national government's budget deficit was reduced to P187 billion last year from P199.9 billion in 2003.

In infrastructure and energy, Neda said the country still had a lot of room for improvement, but likewise noted that there had been major accomplishments in the area.

These include the completion of the North Luzon Expressway and the start of construction of the South Luzon Expressway. It said 92.62 percent of all barangays already have electricity.

On the peace process, Neda said the administration resumed peace talks with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, and that there had been a ceasefire since July 2003.

Culture of honesty

Ernesto Pernia, a UPSE professor, observed that the government's campaign against tax evasion and corruption were creating positive economic results, such as higher revenues.

But he said the scandals hounding the President's family, particularly its alleged involvement in the illegal numbers game "jueteng" were dampening the government's efforts to promote a culture of honesty and good governance.

For his part, Victor Abola, a professor at the University of Asia and the Pacific, said the administration was able to improve the country's fiscal situation.

"There has been a marked improvement in the fiscal side, as the government is much ahead of its deficit program," Abola said.

The two economists said there was still a lot of room for improving the capabilities of Filipino students in English, Math and Science. The English proficiency of students has been deteriorating, the economists said.

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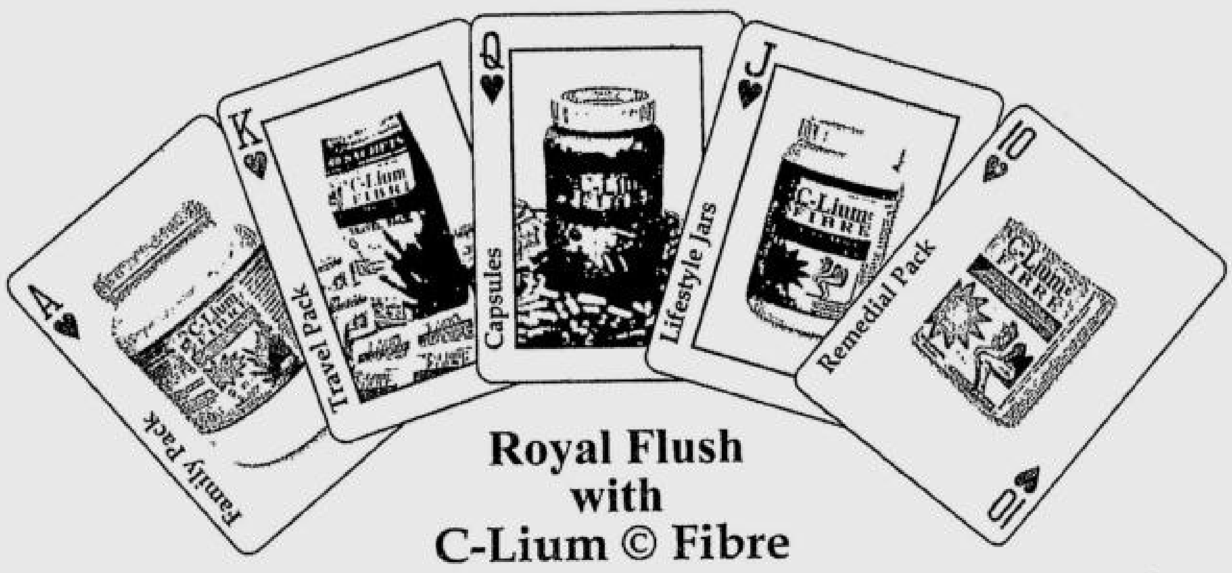

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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Egypt mounts big manhunt after carnage

SHARM EL-SHEIKH, Egypt—Egypt launched a vast manhunt Sunday after the multiple bombings in the Red Sea resort of Sharm el-Sheikh that killed 88 people and fueled global terror fears after the London attacks.

Egypt's deadliest attacks, that came at the peak of the tourist season and killed at least nine foreigners, drew a barrage of condemnation from around the world and dealt a blow to a regime increasingly exposed to Islamist terrorism just weeks ahead of a landmark presidential election.

The bombings, claimed by an al-Qaida group, sent chills through a world still reeling from a series of attacks in London.

Egypt's national security forces started sweeping the Sinai peninsula hours after the explosions—two of them suicide car bombs—that struck a seafront hotel, a car park and a busy market area, security sources said.

Dozens were arrested and raids were ongoing Sunday, after Interior Minister Habib al-Adly claimed investigators already had leads and suggested the attacks could be connected to deadly anti-Israeli bombings on October 7 further north on the Sinai coast.

"This cowardly and criminal act which is aimed at destabilizing Egypt will reinforce our determination to press the battle against terror through to its eradication," President Hosni Mubarak said Saturday.

The bombings, which turned the jewel of Egypt's tourism industry into a nightmare of blood and destruction, were claimed by a group citing ties with Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network.

A group calling itself the al-Qaida Organization in the Levant and Egypt said it carried out the bombings as a "response against the global evil powers which are spilling the blood of Muslims in Iraq, Afghanistan, Palestine, Chechnya."

The authenticity of its Internet posting could not be verified.

Saturday's attacks followed a new terror scare on London's transport system on Thursday after a series of bombings on July 7 also claimed by an al-Qaida group that killed 52 people plus four suicide bombers.

A videotape showing Egypt's envoy to Iraq, reportedly kidnapped and killed by an al-Qaida group on July 7, discussing the Israeli presence in the Sinai was posted on the Internet after the attacks.

Although the recording was not apparently connected with Saturday's blasts, the statement charged that "Jews have expropriated... Sinai and dominated its Muslims through their servants of the tyrants of Egypt."

Accused by Islamists of being enslaved to its Washington ally, Cairo also came under harsh criticism from Israel for its failure to crack down on militants following the October bombings in the Sinai resorts of Taba and Nuweiba.

The trial of three men—one of them still at large—suspected of involvement in the Taba attacks resumed Sunday.

Meanwhile, forensic experts continued to identify the victims of the blasts.

The explosions were heard several miles around and the largest attack destroyed the Ghazala Garden hotel, accounting for around half of the victims.

Medics said some of the bodies were burnt or mangled beyond recognition and that the identification process could take some time, while also warning that the death toll could rise further as many wounded were in critical condition. *AFP*

WRECKED cars are strewn near a blast crater at the site of a car-bomb explosion in the old town of Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, July 24. AP

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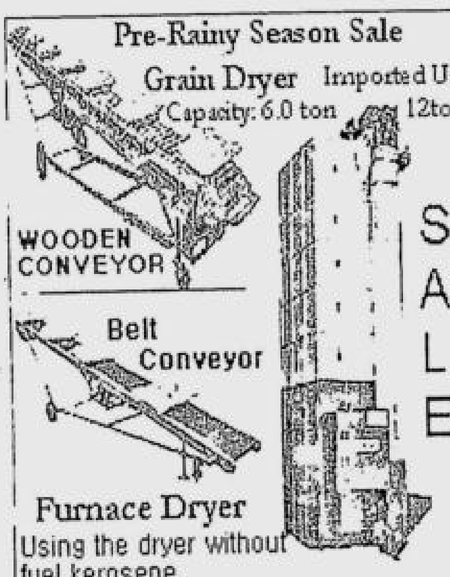

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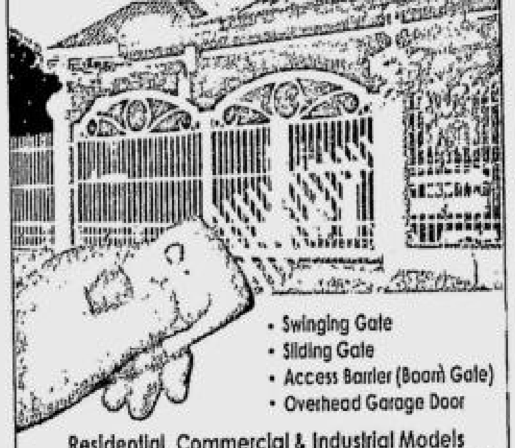

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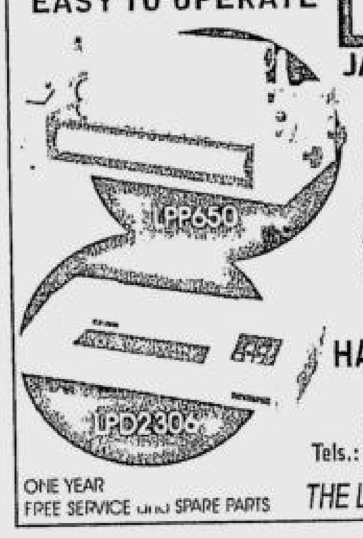

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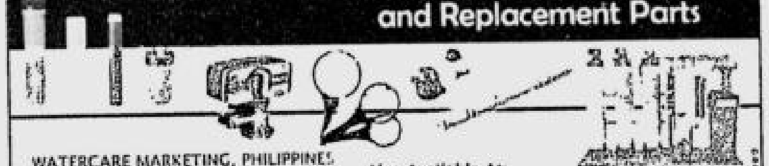

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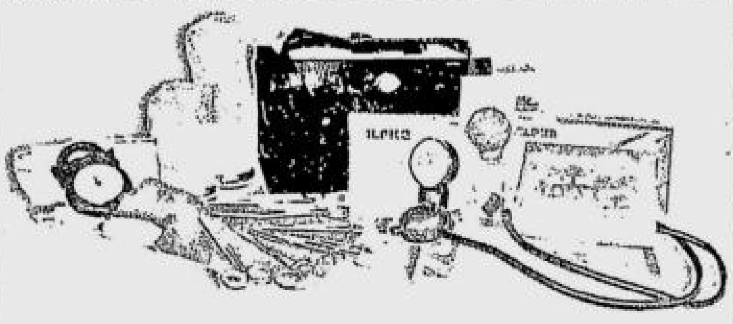

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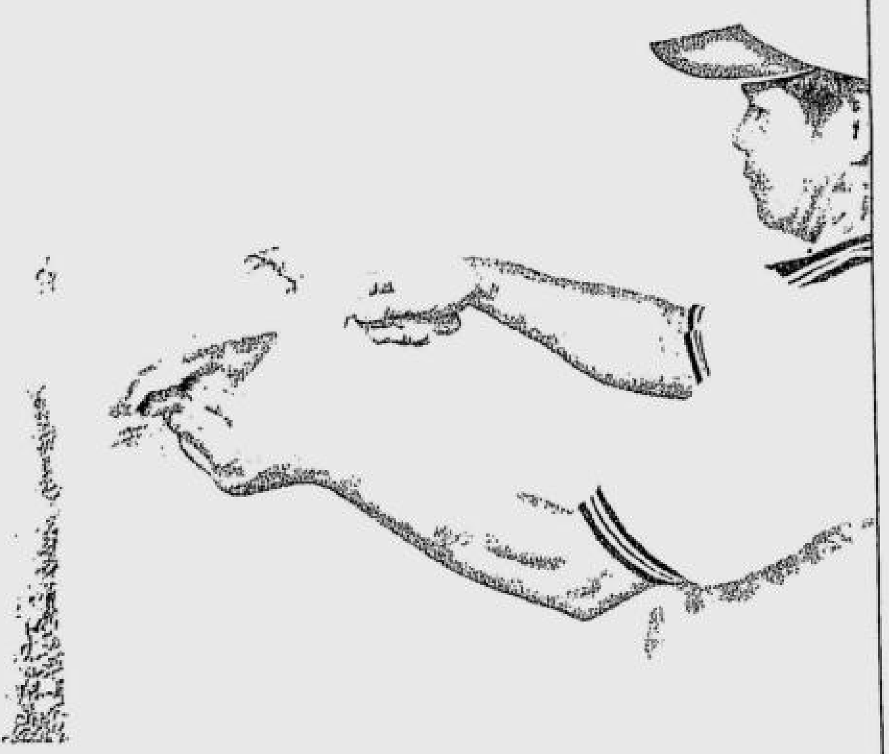

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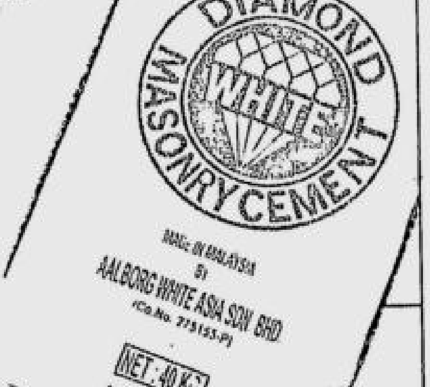

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London cops shot dead innocent man

LONDON—British police faced calls Sunday to explain why they gunned down an innocent Brazilian man in the hunt for the London bombers, as hopes grew that a pile of clues about the twin attacks could bring a breakthrough.

Brazil's foreign ministry demanded an explanation into the "lamentable error" which saw 27-year-old electrician Jean Charles de Menezes pursued through a subway station before being cornered and shot repeatedly in the head.

Former British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook, who quit Tony Blair's government in protest over the Iraq war, told BBC television the blunder dealt "a very serious blow to our relations with a very important country which is an ally of ours."

British Islamic groups called for a public inquiry into the shooting, worried that the Asian ethnic origin of some of the bombers could see Muslims targeted by police.

But newspapers and London's mayor called for understanding.

The carnage of the July 7 bombings, in which four suicide attackers and 52 others died, and the near-miss Thursday when bombs used in a repeat attack seemingly failed to explode properly, meant police faced an impossible situation, they said.

Terrified subway passengers scattered in panic on Friday morning as plain-clothed police pursued Menezes, who relatives said was going to work, through Stockwell Underground station in south London.

Witnesses said the Brazilian—described as looking "like a cornered rabbit"—fell to the floor in a train carriage before a policeman standing directly above shot him five times in the head.

"For somebody to lose their life in such circumstances is a tragedy and one that the Metropolitan Police Service regrets," London's police force said Saturday in their first admission they had killed an innocent man.

Initially, police said Menezes was linked to Thursday's attacks, noting that he was wearing a thick coat on a warm summer day, prompting fears he could be carrying explosives.

Alex Pereira, a cousin of Menezes who lives in London, told BBC television "their explanation is that they had to kill someone to show the population that they are making the country safe. I ask all the people to ask the Metropolitan Police and Tony Blair, 'What kind of job are they doing?'"

Massoud Shadjareh, head of the London-based Islamic Human Rights Commission, called for a full public inquiry.

However, London's Mayor Ken Livingstone said police had done "what they believed necessary to protect the lives of the public."

Sunday's newspaper agreed that however tragic the outcome it was difficult to blame police for taking the action they did.

If a suicide bomber is merely wounded "he can massacre in his final seconds of consciousness," the Mail on Sunday noted in its editorial.

"In the London of July 2005, few would want the police to take any chances.

As the controversy raged, the police investigation into the bombings appeared to be advancing at speed, with much information gathered from the four failed rucksack-based bombs abandoned on Thursday.

According to The Observer newspaper, documents found in one of the rucksacks have led police toward a potentially vital clue—a possible link between the two sets of attackers.

According to the paper, some of the suspected bombers from Thursday are believed to have been on a whitewater rafting trip in Wales attended by two of the July 7 bombers, Mohammad Sidique Khan and Shahzad Tanweer.

The trip could even have been a "bonding" exercise for all concerned, meaning the attacks were planned jointly, the paper said.

Two men have now been arrested in what has become one of Britain's biggest-ever manhunts. Both were detained during raids Friday in Stockwell, near where the Brazilian man was shot.

Police said Saturday that almost 500 people had called them after they released security camera images of the four suspected bombers, which were plastered over the front pages of Saturday's press.

AFP

BUT YOU CAN'T TAKE IT HOME WITH Y

A girl poses for a photo with a tiger at the Tiger Con
Thailand, July 23. The World Wildlife Fund (WWF) b
hunted in Thailand to supply an illegal trade in tiger

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Indian man freed after 54 years in jail without trial

GUWAHATI, India—An Indian court has freed a man who languished in jail or a mental home in the eastern state of Assam for 54 years without ever facing trial, police said Sunday.

Machang Lalung, 77, was arrested in 1951 in his native village of Silsang, 64 km from the state's main city of Guwahati.

Police said records showed Lalung, a tribal, was booked for "voluntarily causing grievous hurt by dangerous weapons or means," an offense carrying a maximum 10-year prison term.

But they said there were no records backing up the accusation.

Soon after his arrest police shifted Lalung to a mental asylum. Though certified "fully recovered" by asylum authorities in 1967, prison officials only returned him to jail this year.

In May the National Human Rights Commission took up Lalung's case and sought his release. He was freed last week after posting a token personal bond of one rupee (two cents).

AFP

Burma likely wo

VIENTIANE, Laos—Military-ruled Burma indicated Sunday it would forgo a regional chairmanship to spare neighbors from rebukes by the West over the junta's poor democracy record, as Asia-Pacific nations opened their top annual security conference.

Australia also was set to embrace a regional nonaggression pact, reversing longstanding opposition after Asian neighbors made the accord a prerequisite for attending a summit next December aimed at moving toward a big East Asian trade bloc.

A draft conference statement said Australia would sign a declaration of intent to join the treaty before Friday.

The 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations plus more than a dozen other governments with interests in the region—such as the United States, Russia, European Union and China—opened talks among ot
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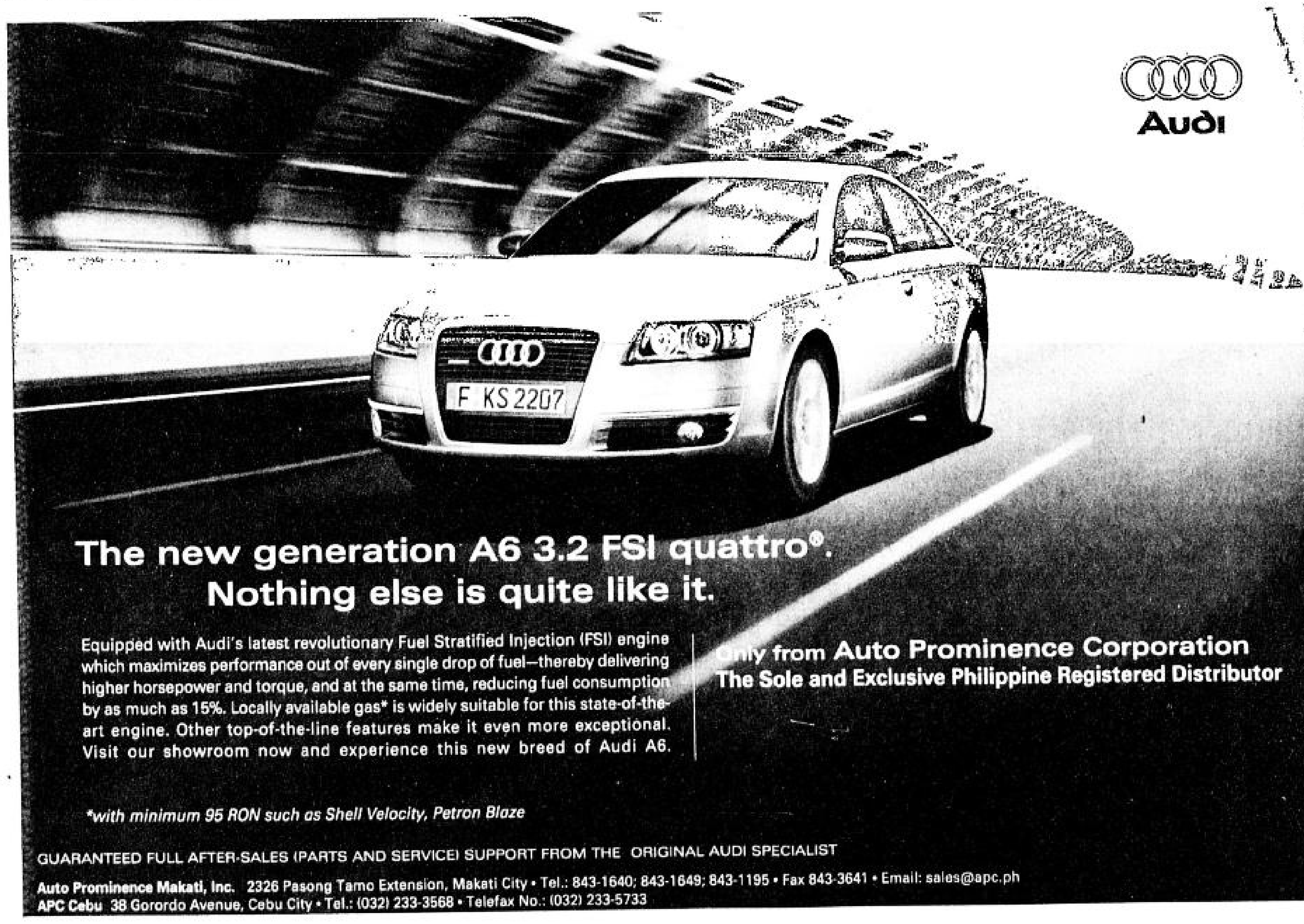

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Besieged Malaysi

KUALA LUMPUR—Malaysian Trade Minister Rafidah Aziz's future is in question after a week where a row over a controversial car import scheme reduced her to tears and saw her heckled and jeered by her own party.

The issue was a hot topic at the ruling party's annual congress as leaders attacked her handling of the auto sector and said the permit system for car imports was responsible for declining sales of the Proton national car.

The row flared when Rafidah, one of the longest-serving members of the Cabinet with 25 years experience, attacked Proton models as "shoddy" and urged it to become more competitive in order to face a newly deregulated environment.

Former Premier Mahathir Mohamad, who launched the national car scheme in the 1980s, responded angrily and said the system of approved permits (APs) was to blame for the automaker's woes by flooding the market with undervalued imports.

As the war of words escalated, Rafidah, a one-time close ally of Mahathir, sobbed publicly for several minutes when asked if she would apologize to the veteran leader over their war of words.

It was a stunning turn of events for Rafidah, once known as "Malaysia's Iron Lady" for her tough approach to her job.

Amid accusations of cronyism in the awarding of the permits, she touched the holy Koran to swear that she had nothing to hide, and was repeatedly forced to deny rumors of her resignation.

And the affair reached a peak on Saturday when her speech to the United

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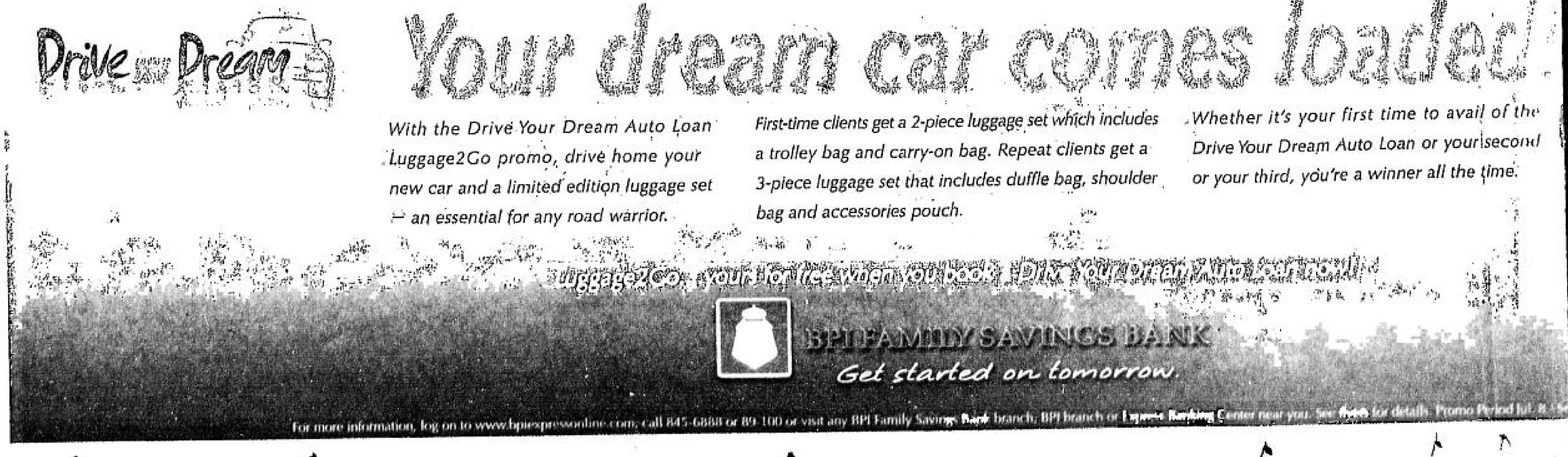

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ervation Center at a Buddhist temple in Kanchanaburi province, lieves the rare tigers and the animals they feed on are still widely nd other animal products. AFP

n't take Asean chair

cials in the Laotian capital, lead- iday's Asean Regional Forum.

fficials were working on a state- t sharing intelligence to better rnational terrorism, officials said.

ent bombings in London and a reminder that this sort of ake place at any time and any idonesian Foreign Ministry on Marty Natalegawa said.

ies of Burma (also known as in Asean have urged it to meet ropean Union demands to lib- l release pro-democracy cam- ng San Suu Kyi from house ar- o its scheduled chairmanship p in late 2006.

i will take over from Laos this

United States and European Union have threatened to boycott Asean meetings if Burma becomes the bloc's leader, and Southeast Asian nations fear the issue could endanger trade ties with the West.

Burma's delegation was widely expected to announce this week it would step aside.

"We do not want to have our friends in a very difficult position," Burmese Foreign Ministry official Thaung Tun told reporters on Sunday, suggesting Myanmar would step aside though declining to confirm that.

Asean comprises Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Burma, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

They are joined this week in Vientiane by Australia, Canada, China, European Union, India, Japan, Mongolia, New Zealand, North Korea, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Russia, South Korea and the United States. *AP*

an minister's fate hangs

Aziz frowning in reaction to n a crowd. AFP

itional Organisation (Umno) igress was interrupted by boos om party leaders.

been victimized since the AP iave been slandered," the trade clared as she attempted to ex- distribution of APs to some gates.

given to ethnic Malays under a d affirmative-action policy de- redistribute wealth and help iys who were lagging behind y Chinese.

of recipients, long kept secret, ed by Prime Minister Abdullah iawi's office last Monday, fuel- of corporate cronyism and allegations that the system was only enriching a privileged few.

The list highlighted four men, including two former senior officials at Rafidah's trade ministry, who together received more than 28,000 of the 67,158 permits issued this year alone.

Ismail Hashim, Umno delegate from northern Perlis, said he was shocked to learn that so few individuals were being awarded so many APs and drew parallels with Philippine President Gloria Arroyo who is under pressure to quit over charges of corruption.

"I don't want to mention one word but just look at what is happening to President Arroyo in the Philippines," he said to loud applause from other delegates.

"Now there is speculation about (the future of) Rafidah," an Umno member attending the general assembly told AFP on condition of anonymity. "She is being rude to Mahathir, she is being egoistical," he said.

"She should listen to the dissenting voices. People just want fair distribution of the APs and transparency," he said.

"Swearing on the Koran like that is ridiculous. It's shameful. You don't need the Koran to bear witness, it's too much. People are laughing at her."

The top echelons of government have been noticeably silent as the debate raged, and Abdullah was lukewarm Saturday when invited to defend his minister.

Asked whether he thought Umno party members were satisfied of her explanation of the import scheme he replied: "I don't know. I wouldn't want to make any assumptions. *AFP*

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Manila-North Mindanao	3,263	2,774
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Visayas-Visayas	1,832	1,557
Visayas-North Mindanao	2,118	1,800
Visayas-South Mindanao	3,607	3,066
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Tell it like it is

EDITORIAL

OUR democratic project is in crisis. Our institutions are weak, our processes porous, our people poor, our political class self-absorbed and unrepresentative. That, in sum, is the true state of the nation.

If there is an emerging consensus on the current political crisis, it is that the problem is rooted in institutional issues, rather than individual personalities. To everyone but the most rabid anti-Arroyo critic, the solution requires more than just the removal of a President.

Consider the options in lieu of outright resignation: snap elections, caretaker council, rule by junta, revolutionary government, ouster-by-People Power, Charter change, impeachment-plus-Truth Commission. Only the last three are constitutional, but all seven presuppose that the answer can no longer be business-as-usual.

We fully expect the President to discuss these institutional issues in depth in today's State of the Nation Address. She had already sounded the theme two weeks ago, in her radio message preempting the resignation of the Hyatt 10. "It's simply the truth that the political system that I am part of has degenerated to the point that it needs fundamental change. We are collectively to blame, so we must collectively be the solution."

This, the President's "biggest truth" strategy, has already come under fire, as a transparent attempt to sweep the truth of the Garcillano tapes under the rug of bigger, more complicated truths. There is, of course, something to that charge; the laws of political survival apply to every politician. But the idea that the solution does not lie in the President's resignation alone is not only a clever ploy; it also happens to be the truth.

The President must use today's make-or-break speech as an occasion to speak candidly, and speak specifically, on the rot in the system. In her radio message, she spoke of the degeneration of politics: "Over the years, our political system has degenerated to such an extent that it's very difficult to live within the system with hands totally untainted. That is the truth."

She must prove that these words are not merely code for "The opposition did it too," or a cipher for Charter change according to the Ramos formula; she must convincingly make the case that politics-as-usual has in fact stunted the growth of our political institutions: political parties no bigger than the men who fund them, an electoral system that refuses to leave the flawed but lucrative past, a citizenry always ready to vote but ever more unwilling to take daily part.

At the same time, she must speak honestly, and speak without fear, about her own role in the political crisis; "to discern deeply," as the bishops had enjoined her, "to what extent she might have contributed to the erosion of effective governance and whether the erosion is so severe as to be irreversible."

The fundamental fact is that the President suffers from nothing less than a crisis of legitimacy. There is no running away from the scandals that have descended, like a biblical plague, on her administration.

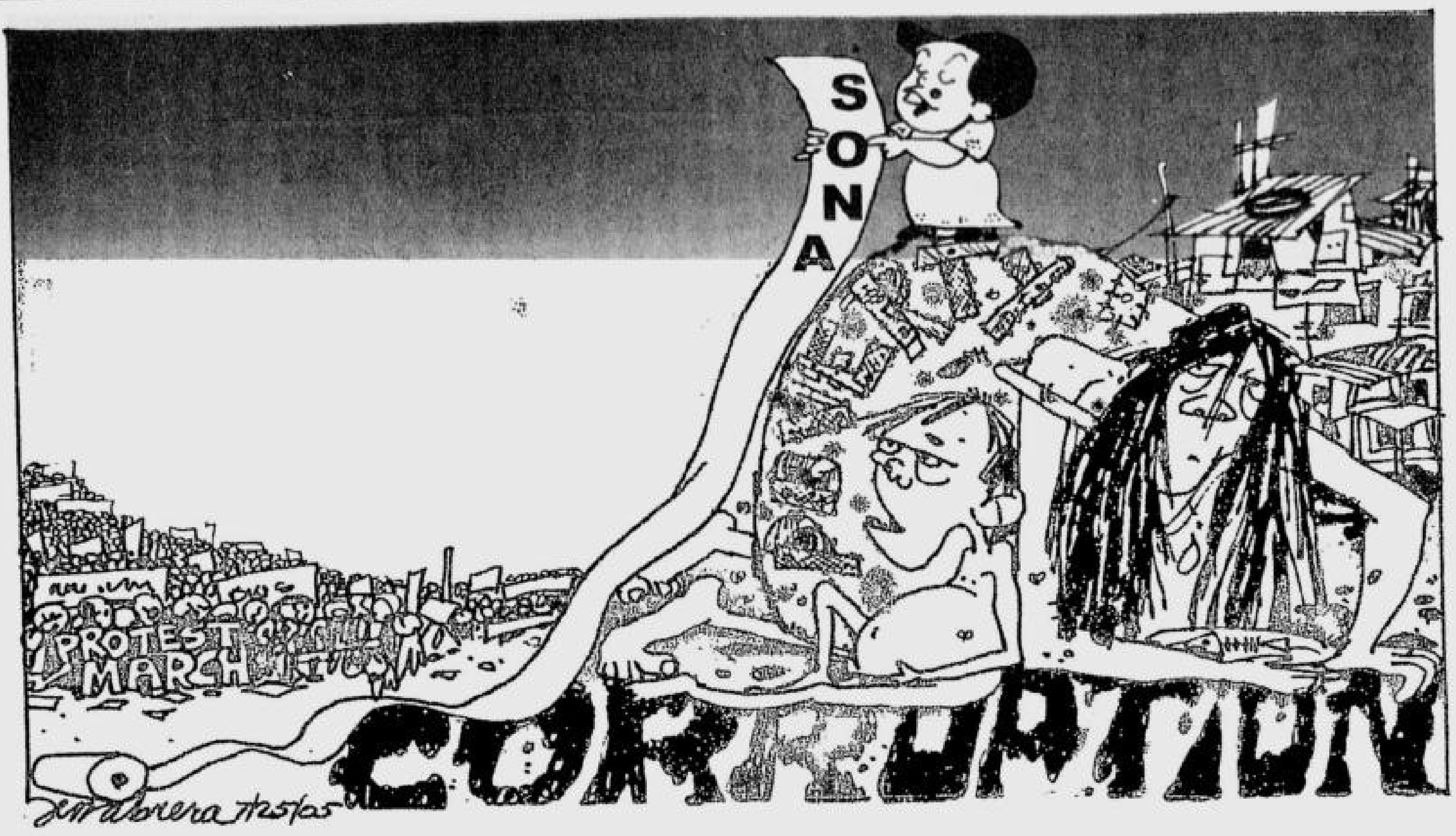
Despite the lack of any real evidence, public opinion already seems to have settled the question of the involvement of the President's family in the *jueteng* numbers racket. And despite the failure of the cowardly Samuel Ong to come out from hiding long enough to testify in Congress, public opinion about alleged election fraud committed by the President has also gelled.

For the President to discourse on the "bigger truth" of lowest-common-denominator politics and set the agenda for the rest of her time in office, she must address the issue of legitimacy.

First, she must speak about the controversy on *jueteng*, in unmistakable terms. Second, she must speak up, and speak at length, on the Garcillano tapes. Third, she must pledge to bring former Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano himself out of hiding.

Not least, she must pledge not to subvert the impeachment process; instead, she must support it as an example of growing political maturity.

If she fails to do any of these, nothing in the agenda she will present today will matter. Everything will be for nought.



State of lies to the nation

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

EVERYBODY is wondering what President Macapagal-Arroyo will say at her State of the Nation Address before Congress today. I know what she will say, and I advise those who are going out today to bring with them raincoats and umbrellas because there will be a lightning storm this afternoon while the President delivers her Sona. Stay away from the Batasan because the lightning strikes will be fiercest there.

If you will listen to her, you will think that she is describing another nation. You will be surprised at the progress and development in the country, progress that you and the rest of the Filipinos never suspected. She will support her claims with statistics: so many new jobs created, so many kilometers of roads constructed, so many new schools erected, so many homes for the homeless built, so many bridges constructed, etc. In fact, too many bridges that some of them are now found even in places where there are no rivers to cross.

But as the old saying goes, there are three types of lies: lies, damn lies and statistics.

She will also make more rosy promises of a better future. But considering her past record on promises, you cannot be blamed if you don't believe her. The future will be better only if she leaves Malacañang. But she has no intention of leaving any time soon.

She will also call again for unity, but the people are already united—in asking her to step down.

Really, GMA doesn't have to over-exert herself to make the people happy. She only has to do one thing: Resign.

* * *

Elections for officials of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao are scheduled on Aug. 8 in the midst of a clamor for the resignation of all the Comelec commissioners. Can we trust the Comelec to conduct honest elections? Shouldn't it be reorganized first?

Considering the closeness of the elections, I don't think that is possible. And, according to a Comelec old-timer, the call for the resignation of all the commissioners is an "unfair one."

"What Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano did was a one- or two-man operation, with a few of their subordinates and ranking military officers as accomplices," he said. "No one of the other commissioners was on that recording. [Neither] did Garci refer to any one of them as an accomplice. Do we seek the resignation of all congressmen because two or three have been sent to jail? Do we imprison a whole family because a son has violated a law? Certainly, the Comelec, as an institution, did not commit the crime. Only one man did. So why the clamor for everyone's resignation?"

The lesson of the Gloria-Garci tapes, the old-timer said, is that commissioners who are supposed to be independent, as in the Comelec, should not assume their positions before they are confirmed by the Commission on Appointments. Then—because they cannot be removed from office except by impeachment—they can really be independent.

The plans called for modernized elections on May 10, 2004, the old-timer continued. With the modernization, the expectation was that the results would be all in by noon of May 12, 2004—that is, 36 hours after the election precincts closed. If this had been realized, there would have been little room for *dagdag-bawas*.

Manipulation of results becomes possible because of delays in the counting. The longer the count, the easier it is to add or subtract from the actual results. With the modernization, all of the individual precinct results would have been in Manila within that 36-hour window.

Strangely, the GMA administration, which at first was eagerly moving for the modernization of our electoral processes, seemed to have had a change of attitude toward an election quick-count after FPJ joined the presidential contest.

When FPJ's citizenship was questioned, the first division of the Comelec immediately ruled that FPJ was a Filipino citizen. This was later confirmed by the Comelec en banc.

Subsequently, on Feb. 9, two new commissioners—Garcillano and Manuel Barcelona—were appointed and they immediately took their oath of office. Also immediately, they filed with the Supreme Court their dissenting opinion to the Comelec's en banc decision, even if they were not yet commissioners at the time the decision was arrived at.

It is strange that the Supreme Court called in experts to help it on the citizenship question since the issue only involved a question of law and the Supreme Court justices themselves are legal experts. At any rate, all the experts agreed with the Comelec: FPJ was a Filipino. Thus, the Supreme Court could do nothing but agree with its own experts.

As to the case on the modernization program, this was never heard by any lower court. Since the Supreme Court is supposed to be not a "trier of facts," as the Court itself has often said, there should have been, first, a lower court trial to ascertain the facts. This never happened. The Supreme Court then ruled that the machines bought by the Comelec would not work. This, despite a memo from the Department of Science and Technology that it found the machines to be acceptable for the use contemplated by the Comelec.

What is strange is that while the justices called in experts to help them in a simple citizenship case, they did not call in any experts on something that was highly technical.

The Supreme Court forbade the use of the machines for the elections. When the Comelec asked that it be allowed to use VSAT (very small aperture terminal) to transmit election results from the precincts so that it could meet the 36-hour deadline, the Supreme Court again said "No!"

Thus, the *dagdag-bawas* operators were able to do their worst. The old manual way of counting votes made cheating possible, the old-timer concluded.

That is why the Presidential Electoral Tribunal should open the election returns to determine who really won.

The state of the nation

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

THE REAL threat in today's Sona isn't that much blood will be spilled, it is that much blah will be spat. The true state of the nation is a simple one. It is a case of good and bad, right and wrong, crime and punishment. We cannot grasp so elemental a point of justice, we have no business trying to be a nation. We might as well just lie in state. The (true) state of the nation is:

Hello Garci… Hello Garci…

Hello Garci… Hello Garci…

Hello Garci… Hello Garci…

Hello Garci… Hello Garci…

Hello Garci… Hello Garci…

Hello Garci… Hello Garci…

Hello Garci… Hello Garci…

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Hello Garci… Hello Garci…

Hello Garci… Hello Garci…

Hello Garci… Hello Garci…

Hello Garci… Hello Garci…

Goodbye Gloria.

A truth commission?

SOUNDING BOARD

Fr. Joaquin G. Bernas, S.J.

THERE is something comical about the way the route to a truth commission is developing. But before exploring the comedy, let me just say something about what triggered the thoughts about creating a truth commission.

It seems that the inspiration came from the experience at least of Argentina, Chile and South Africa in their investigation of human rights violations as part of a national reconciliation process. What stands out, however, is that in all of these countries the truth commissions were created after the defeat of the administration under which the human rights violations took place. That should say a lot about the commission President Macapagal-Arroyo wishes to create. Her commission will investigate, under her authority, her alleged misdeeds after she had announced that she did nothing wrong.

Now about the comedy. I start from the initial decision of the President to set up a truth commission. The purported mandate of this truth commission is to look into what really happened in the presidential elections of May 2004. She originally had planned to set up the commission through an executive order. She soon realized, however, that she did not have the constitutional power to give it teeth, and that it would have to be supported by a legislative act. Despite the lukewarm response to the idea (of a truth commission) even from her supporters in Congress, she is nevertheless determined—we are told—to go it alone.

Congress' lukewarm response is understandable. And this is what I find to be funny. Consider, first, that the President is aware that Congress has been investigating the circumstances surrounding the "Hello Garci" tapes. She is also aware that her defenders in the House of Representatives have made it very difficult for the congressional investigators. Now Congress is being asked to support a commission that will be created to do the work Congress has been trying to do. Equivalently, she is saying to Congress, "Look, guys, you did not do your job well. You better redeem yourselves by creating a commission that will do the investigation more honorably than you have done so far!" In other words, the President will ask Congress to do a "We confess" and to admit that it has failed in its task.

Second, the President is also aware of the moves in Congress to impeach her and that among the impeachment charges to be filed against her are actions or omissions related to the conduct of the last presidential elections. She has openly declared that impeachment is what she wants. Meanwhile, her critics in the House of Representatives are struggling to convince her supporters in the House to cooperate in bringing the impeachment charges to trial by the Senate. But she has hired a lawyer, Pedro Ferrer, whose move is being read as an attempt to block the impeachment. Thus, although from one side of the mouth she's saying that impeachment is the proper way to deal with the accusations against her, from the other side, she's saying she wants to frustrate the impeachment. She prefers instead to have a body created by her to do the investigation.

Third, the President is also aware that the Supreme Court as Presidential Electoral Tribunal (PET) is the sole judge of all presidential election contests involving elections and returns. After FPJ died, Susan Roces asked to be allowed to continue the protest of FPJ if only for the purpose of finding the truth. But through her lawyers, she opposed the continuation of the tribunal's investigation on the technical ground of lack of a real party-in-interest.

Technically GMA was right. But can something still be done about this? Let me make a shot in the dark. Under the present circumstances, where there is a clamor for an impartial body to look into the Gloriagate scandal, the Supreme Court may yet be persuaded to reopen the FPJ protest, as an act of judicial statesmanship, if only to find out whether indeed Gloria garnered more votes than FPJ, or whether the Vice President should be president instead. That question, after all, is what is tearing the nation apart.

As precedent for such an act of statesmanship by the Supreme Court, we might consider the two stages that the case of Avelino v. Cuenco went through in 1949. In the first stage, the Court said it had no jurisdiction over the case and dismissed Avelino's petition. In the second stage, when the problem persisted and the clamor from all quarters for the Court to decide became very loud, the Court assumed jurisdiction and decided in favor of Cuenco. Peace followed.

If this shot in the dark misses the mark, another avenue, albeit narrow, may yet be explored. The protest against her running mate Noli de Castro is still open at the PET. The President can file a motion to intervene in the Noli case because the documents being examined in the Noli case also contain the votes for President. Truth can also be found there.

Assume, however, that Congress does a "We confess our inadequacy" and obliges by creating a truth commission armed with money and all the teeth it needs to ferret out the truth. But all Congress can do is create the office and fund it. It cannot fill the seats. The power to appoint the commissioners will still belong to the President. She will thus be judged by her appointees.

Finally, what if her commission comes out with a finding different from the finding by the impeachment body? That would be fun. We might finally have the trigger needed for an extra-constitutional movement—except that we cannot anticipate where such movement will lead to.

Men and women of goodwill are clamoring that we should give the Constitution a chance. We should give Congress a chance to do its constitutional job without any parallel movement subverting its work.

Legend of the 'Fall'

KRIS-CROSSING MINDANAO

Noralyn Mustafa

CONGENITAL, habitual, pathological, incurable, compulsive, hypocritical, vicious, immoral.

Never had I read as many modifiers being used to describe the noun "liar." These—and others too embarrassing to print—were in the text messages that came in from readers and friends after Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo delivered her "I'm sorry" speech. (I learned from some colleagues that the messages crisscrossed the country that night in different variations.)

Which got me to thinking: when was the last time the Filipino people called their President (however he or she became one) a congenital, habitual, pathological, incurable, compulsive, hypocritical, vicious, immoral liar?

This was a very bothersome thought, because from it, all else follow.

It is, as Sen. Panfilo Lacson described in his "True State of the Nation" address delivered last Friday, the debilitating cancer that has contaminated and corroded the moral and social fiber of our nation.

And because of this, nothing is going to work. Not the elaborate attempts to cover up or tone down the effects of the so-called Garci tapes, not the supposed demonstrations of support from local government officials; neither the frequent "*kodakan*" and walk-abouts with Cabinet secretaries and other allies, all of which only come off as cheap theater.

Because of this, every statement Ms Arroyo issues, every television appearance or radio broadcast she makes is now greeted only with more derision and/or laughter.

Not even the impeccable reputations of the personalities nominated to the truth commission she proposes can lend a shred of credibility to that body, simply because lying and truth are contradictory, and one cannot result from the other. We are confident that these respected individuals will choose to spare themselves the ignominy of being used in this highly oxymoronic endeavor.

Never has the presidency been so disgraced. And never have we, as a people, been so degraded as when her allies kept on scaring us with declarations that there is "no alternative" to Ms Arroyo, implying that the best that the Filipino race can produce is, to quote Neal Cruz, "an incoherent midget."

Not a few seemed disappointed with the very mild and motherly speech of Susan Roces in the Makati rally, which was in direct contrast to that famous fire-and-brimstone salvo she spewed on Ms Arroyo on television.

But the Makati speech was perfect. As simple as the Ten Commandments, as precise as the Panatang Makabayan which, she told the youth who were at the rally, "it seems we, your elders, have now forgotten." Because, next to the home, it is the school and the church—education and religion—where we are taught not to bear false witness and to love our country enough so that we do not screw our countrymen from Day One of our assumption to the highest office of the land.

And Susan Roces did not have to go to Georgetown University to learn these lessons.

After all, even the value of education, which really means drawing out and developing what we intrinsically are, depends to a very large extent on the moral framework of the recipient.

Which is why one can understand how Luli Arroyo, acknowledged like her mother for her academic excellence—diplomatic studies in her case—could engage in such undiplomatic language as "*porke't maganda ka,* actress *ka, may mga* award *ka sa pagartista, kaya mo na (maging presidente).*"

Of course, had Inday stooped to that level, she could very well have replied "*porke't may* doctorate *ka, kahit ka dakilang sinungaling, pwede kang mamuno?*" But then Ms Poe is what my mother would call "a lady." And she doesn't need a college degree to be one.

This is the reason I am very glad that we have someone like the remarkable in-your-face Rep. Francis Escudero overseeing the impeachment complaint. He is the kind who—as he has done and proved—can keep his sights above the dizzying mountain of sins that Ms Arroyo has committed against us, and can lump them all up under three focused headings that we can all comprehend: lying, cheating and stealing.

Don't lie, don't steal, don't cheat. That's what we were taught as early as Grade I by our underpaid teachers in the public schools. Surely, the good sisters in Assumption College never ceased teaching the same, and with much more zeal.

No, let us not, as the administration so ardently desires, allow ourselves to be distracted by the legal labyrinth regarding the source of the wiretapped tapes or their admissibility as evidence; or by the maelstrom of statistics proving alleged accomplishments, regularly coming out of Rep. Joey Salceda's bag of tricks; or by Secretary Mike Defensor's deafening defense of the indefensible.

Neither should we torment ourselves by wondering about the moves of the opposition, as to what they are doing to remove from our midst the cause of all our miseries here at home and the cause of all our shame in the global community.

I am willing to give the opposition my trust and can only hope that it will not betray us. Because Ms Arroyo has so damaged our collective psyche that we have almost totally lost trust in each other and in our institutions.

Her recently acquired propensity to quote from the Scriptures (an ability, indeed, that even the devil can and does exercise) might even, heaven forbid, make us lose our trust in the Almighty. And that will be our perdition.

String up all video clips of the Cabinet in prayer before each meeting and observe. While all heads are bowed, Ms Arroyo is smiling at the camera, or looking at someone across the table, or up at the ceiling. That is the "Omen." Be forewarned.

* * *

Comments to rubaiyat19@yahoo.com

Stop, look and listen

THE LONG VIEW

Manuel L. Quezon III

THE TERM, "state of the nation" has been used since the 1935 Constitution. The term is borrowed from the Americans, specifically from their president's reports on "the state of the union." (Not until Woodrow Wilson did American presidents bother to report to Congress in person; prior to him, they simply sent a bound report.) The Philippine Constitution then didn't specifically state that the president should make a report during the opening of the legislature's sessions. Instead, it simply stated that the President of the Philippines could, "from time to time," make reports to the legislature. That the President of the Philippines, today, has an obligation to report to Congress at the opening of its sessions on the state of the nation is an innovation adopted in the present Constitution.

The first "state of the nation address" was delivered on June 16, 1935, during the opening of the first session of the First National Assembly. Its title was merely "On The Country's Conditions and Problems." A similar address was given on June 23, 1936; it was accompanied by the presentation of the proposed budget for 1937, which is similar to the practice under the present administration. (During past administrations, the president's address would be followed by the submission of the proposed budget for the next year.)

There were messages in 1937, 1938, 1939 and 1940, but the message for the First Congress of the Commonwealth (elected in November 1940) was never delivered because of the war.

Congress would finally convene in 1945. On June 3, 1946, President Manuel Roxas addressed the Second Congress for the first time as president, and his speech was simply titled, "Message to the Second Congress [of the Commonwealth]." This would be the last state of the nation address delivered in the Commonwealth era.

It seems that not until Manuel Roxas' first address to Congress as the president of an independent republic do we find the title, "Message on the State of the Nation." This was delivered on Jan. 27, 1947, to the First Congress of the Republic (our present Congress is the 13th). With the Republic thus began the practice of formally calling the subject of the president's message the "State of the Nation." From that date, the Sona was also made in January every year, until martial law was declared. Roxas' successor, Elpidio Quirino, continued the practice. By 1951, specifically on Jan. 22 that year, the day he delivered his, "Address on the State of Nation," it could be said that the Sona in its present form had been firmly established as a tradition.

And so, under the 1935 Constitution, elections were held in November, presidents were inaugurated on Rizal Day, and Congress began its sessions in January. On Jan. 26, 1970, President Marcos went to the Legislative Building (now one of the National Museum buildings) to deliver his State of the Nation Address. No one remembers what he said. What people remember is what happened when Marcos was about to leave the premises of Congress. Pete Lacaba wrote about this in a famous account:

"Where the demonstration leaders stood, emblems of the enemy were prominently displayed: a cardboard coffin representing the death of democracy at the hands of the goonstabulary in the last elections; a cardboard crocodile, painted green, symbolizing congressmen greedy for allowances; a paper effigy of Ferdinand Marcos. When the President stepped out of Congress, the effigy was set on fire and, according to report, the coffin was pushed toward him, the crocodile hurled at him. From my position down on the street, I saw only the burning of the effigy—a singularly undramatic incident, since it took the effigy so long to catch fire. I could not even see the President and could only deduce the fact of his coming out of Congress from the commotion at the doors, the sudden radiance created by dozens of flashbulbs bursting simultaneously, and the rise in the streets of the cry: 'MArcos PUPpet! MARcos PUPpet! MARcos PUPpet!'"

Marcos would zoom away, with his wife Imelda suffering a sprained ankle; rioting began and took place late into the night, complete with rock-throwing and the smashing and burning of the luxury vehicles of members of Congress. Thus a new tradition was born: the State of the Nation demonstration.

President Aquino's first State of the Nation Address took place at a time when efforts were still under way to restore the pre-martial law traditions of the presidency. She walked into the session hall of the House to the strains of generic classical music. By her next State of the Nation Address, things were more along the lines of the traditions of the past: the presidential anthem, "Mabuhay," for one, was performed in a rousing manner by a band. It has been that way ever since (and the demonstrators have also remained a predictable part of the proceedings).

Since the President of the Philippines is constitutionally bound to report to Congress, and since both houses of the legislature make this possible by inviting the President to do so, I disagree with those who intend to boycott today's event. Members of Congress are paid to do their jobs, just as the President is paid to do hers; and when she does her job, others should be expected to do the same. A distinction needs to be made between the position and the one holding that position; the position, regardless of the political circumstances of the holder, demands an adherence to protocol and elementary courtesy. Protocol and courtesy demand paying attention to the President today. She is complying with a duty demanded of her by the basic law of the land. Our senators and congressmen should do the same. They can make their own speeches, march in the streets, or do whatever they like, afterwards, but not before, or during the Sona.

* * *

Comments welcome at www.quezon.ph/blog

Alternative scenario

COMMENTARY

Avelino Sebastian Jr.

IF President Macapagal-Arroyo's disqualification is eventually declared by the Presidential Electoral Tribunal (PET), should the Vice President succeed?

In Section 8, Article VII of the Constitution, the vice president is entitled to succession in four instances: when the president dies, suffers permanent disability, resigns, or is removed from office. Ms Arroyo has made it clear that she will not resign. But, she can be removed. Ms Arroyo's removal from office can be achieved legally in one of two ways: by impeachment, or by the declaration of her disqualification in an election protest. Section 2, Article IX of the Constitution expressly declares that the president may only be removed from office by impeachment. Accordingly, the constitutional succession of the vice president following the removal of the president presupposes that the removal of the president is by virtue of impeachment. Constitutional succession will not take place if Ms Arroyo's disqualification under Section 68 of the Omnibus Election Code is declared by the PET.

The standing to file and maintain an election protest is limited to the candidates who obtained the second and third highest number of votes. Unfortunately, FPJ passed away on Dec. 14, 2004 and the PET has ruled with finality that his widow cannot take his place as petitioner.

This leaves Sen. Panfilo Lacson as the sole surviving potential protestant. Lacson has a very limited period of time within which to file an electoral protest. Under the PET rules, the petition should have been filed within 30 days from Ms Arroyo's proclamation. However, Lacson may reasonably argue that the evidence of Ms Arroyo's disqualification (that is, the "Hello Garci" tape) became available only on June 27, 2005 when she delivered her famous "I'm sorry" address to the nation, wherein she admitted to having spoken to a Comelec official during the 2004 presidential elections. In a number of previous occasions, the Supreme Court entertained election protests that were filed way after the statutory deadline. The Court took cognizance of the protests, saying that the higher interest of the State and public good should take precedence over procedural infirmities. Accordingly, Lacson has 30 days from June 27, 2005 (the date Ms Arroyo openly admitted her "lapse in judgment") within which to file the electoral protest.

Clearly, the success or failure of Lacson's electoral protest would depend heavily on the admissibility of the "Hello Garci" tape as evidence. Allies of Ms Arroyo are quick to point out that the tape, being the fruit of a poisoned tree, is inadmissible as evidence. Several arguments, however, can be raised to refute this proposition.

First, Ms Arroyo has been nebulous in her famous "I'm sorry" address. She neither confirmed nor denied that the female voice on the "Hello Garci" tape was hers. Unless she makes a categorical admission, it is not likely that she would be in a legal position to suppress the presentation of the tape as evidence, because the constitutional protection of the privacy of conversation is personal.

Second, by not making a timely admission or denial of the identity of the female voice in the tape, Ms Arroyo may be held in estoppel. Despite the public outrage and economic adversities that resulted from the revelation of the tape, Ms Arroyo opted to remain silent. The circumstances clearly demanded that she make a categorical admission or denial of her involvement in the taped conversations. She did not. She had every opportunity to invoke her constitutional right to privacy. She did not. The law does not extend protection to those who sleep on their rights. The law presumes, on the contrary, that one who deliberately fails to invoke a right when the circumstances clearly demand such invocation, has no right to invoke it in the first place.

Third, Ms Arroyo may be deemed to have waived her right to the privacy of communication. The House of Representatives played the tape as part of the evidence in the congressional investigation on the "Hello Garci" tapes. She did not even try to suppress the move by invoking the right to privacy. On the contrary, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye even presented the tape to the media on June 6, 2005. By all indications, Ms Arroyo's actions clearly demonstrate a waiver of the right to privacy of communication.

Fourth, the constitutional guarantee of privacy of communication is not absolute. The right succumbs to the exigencies of the highest public interest. Given that the tapes could shed light to the issue relating to electoral fraud, Ms Arroyo's right to privacy must yield to the higher national interest.

Fifth, there is serious doubt if the Anti-Wire Tapping Law is applicable to the interception of mobile phone conversations. As presently worded, the law makes specific reference to the tapping of wires and cables. A mobile phone is wireless, and the transmission is made through radio waves. The United States Congress, in fact, amended its own law on the matter, after arriving at the conclusion that the original law did not extend protection to wireless conversations.

Avelino Sebastian Jr. is a private law practitioner and a professor of law with 25 years of teaching experience. He is a law graduate of the Ateneo de Manila University and holds a masters degree in international banking law from Boston University.

THEY SAID

Measuring rod

"The litmus test and the measuring rod for UN reforms must be the difference they make for people and crisis areas around the world: for the starving child, the AIDS-stricken mother, the war-torn country, the polluted river, the desperate refugee, the oppressed and neglected."

—UN General Assembly president Jan Eliasson on UN Secretary General Kofi Annan's agenda for reform

Elite power

"We have to reduce the power of the elite. Only then can democracy have a chance to flourish in this country."

—Former UP president Francisco Nemenzo on bringing about genuine reforms in the Philippines

Water power

"It helps us realize that we don't always have to run to the government to sort out our problems; we can do it ourselves."

— Sitmo (Sustainable Energy to Save the Ifugao Terraces Movement) president and former Ifugao Gov. Teodoro Baguilat Jr. on the micro-hydro project recognized in the Global Environment Awards

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Character flaws, change from within

IT'S not the system, stupid!

For the past weeks, the longest running *telenovela* that is Philippine politics was the undisputed No. 1 show in all rating surveys. No mean feat for a tragicomedy in a dead afternoon time slot. Some observers were regaled, others nauseated by the antics of the lightweight cast of hedonistic "over-actors."

As plot segued into counter plot, a line was drawn in the sand. The satraps of civil society started to panic, infecting some armchair generals and a few wannabe political sycophants. "Systems breakdown!" they cried. Followed, as if on cue, by the now all-too-familiar "Charter change!" ("How to Cha-cha to a parliamentary federal system with a 1-2,.1-2-3.")

Trapos are quick to toe the same line as they strut, preen and play to the gallery like the consummate snake oil salesmen that they are. In all that bedlam and Babel, they conveniently fail to mention that we have been changing systems since 1902, with apparently very little or no success.

Perhaps, we should take some pointers from the great Manuel Luis Quezon. On or about his 60th birthday, he hypothesized that certain character flaws, innate to Filipinos, prevented them from finding "their destiny, to conquer their place in the sun." He then forswore to undertake the regeneration of the Filipino people through the formulation and adoption of a code of ethics and personal conduct akin to the ancient Japanese Code of Bushido. "Cast away pretense and futile pride. . .because we could ill afford to suppress truth or to extenuate our shortcomings." He further declared that, "We lack earnestness. Face-saving is the dominant note in the confused symphony of our existence. Our sense of righteousness is often dulled by the desire for personal gain. Our norm of conduct is generally prompted by expediency rather that by principle. We show a failing in that superb courage which impels action because it is right, even at the cost of self-sacrifice. Our greatest fear is not to do wrong, but that of being caught doing wrong... There are those among us who are opt to compromise with ethical principles and to regard truth as not incompatible with misrepresentation or self-deceit."

It is a revelation to realize that one of this Republic's founding fathers was an amateur—albeit astute—psychoanalyst who, if he were around today, would have no problem finding a lucrative job writing screenplays for *telenovelas*.

Should MLQ's words strike close to home or seem hauntingly familiar, you are quite likely going through an epiphany of sorts. It's not the system, stupid! We could be given a second chance in the Garden of Eden today, and we would still screw it up and get the boot. We could have a hale and hearty Mother Teresa occupying Malacañang and still go through an Edsa IV.

If we are to truly change our world, we must first truly change from within.

—JOSE ENRIQUE J. YULO,
4/F CJ Yulo & Sons Bldg.,
Pasong Tamo cor. Don Bosco Road,
Makati City

Statesmanship and impaired presidency

THE MANAGEMENT Association of the Philippines (MAP) asks our leaders to demonstrate statesmanship, which to us means acting in the interest of future generations of Filipinos.

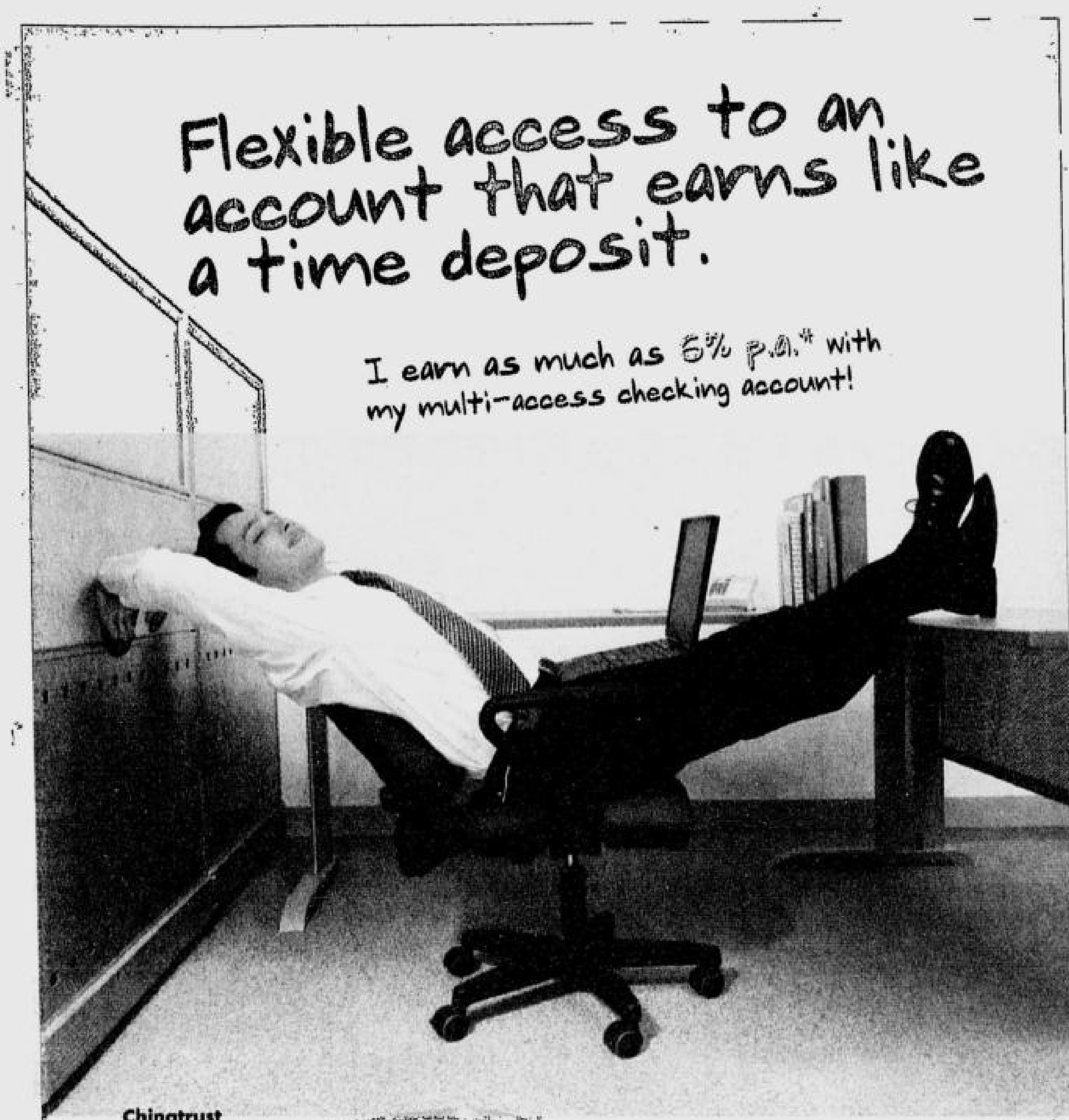
We have a poor and growing population that must be fed, educated and integrated into our economy through jobs. We have an external environment that is difficult, made more acute with high oil prices. We face a potential fiscal crisis that has been exacerbated by the Supreme Court's recent issuance of a TRO (temporary restraining order). Corruption and criminality continue to plague our people. And the financial markets reflect the turmoil: the prices of Philippine stocks and bonds and the value of the peso have all dropped dramatically.

Given these challenges, the events of the past weeks have, in our view, seriously impaired the ability of the President to address these problems. The resignations of the most respected members of her Cabinet have further disabled the presidency. The longer the President stays in office under a cloud of doubt and mistrust, the greater the damage to the economy. And the greater is our vulnerability to forces seeking extra-constitutional means to grab power.

We acknowledge that the President has achieved commendable progress in many of her programs. And to preserve her legacy, she must now act with statesmanship and relinquish the presidency to her constitutionally mandated successor.

With God's grace and guidance, we pray that she will do what is best for our country and its future.

—RAFAEL LL. REYES
(on behalf of the Management Association of the Philippines), director, AIG Global Investment Corp. (Asia) Ltd., Philam Building, Paseo de Roxas, Makati City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10,000 ARMM multiple registrants warned

COTABATO CITY—The Commission on Elections warned some 10,000 multiple registrants in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao against casting votes in the Aug. 8 polls.

Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos said cases against double or multiple registrants had already been filed in court.

The offenders, Abalos said, "may vote at their own risk because their questionable act could be challenged by any one."

The list of illegal registrants could be availed of by candidates and their political parties, he said.

Pending their arrest, they can still vote because they are registered voters.

"But voting more than once, when caught, would serve as the best evidence that they really want to cheat in the election," he said.

Abalos reminded the candidates that they can still file a petition to exclude illegal registrants in the official voters' list.

At the same time, Abalos assured the electorate that next month's political exercise would be fair, honest and peaceful after having conferred with police and military officials and other groups deputized by the poll body.

Casting away doubts and suspicion about the Comelec's tarnished image in the conduct of political exercises, Abalos said the poll body, Namfrel and civil society groups agreed to focus all voting activities in one common area.

For Maguindanao, the Notre Dame University would serve as counting venue, and for Lanao del Sur, the Mindanao State University in Marawi City.

Counting of ballots and canvassing of election returns in these provinces would be centralized, he said. Election inspectors, party watchers, non-government group representatives will be allowed to observe the proceedings. *Charlie Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

CONTROVERSIAL ART Baguio-based filmmaker Kidlat Tahimik brought his shoes, and the pumps and slippers of his mother (former Baguio mayor Virginia de Guia who went by the name Lina Leynes as an actress), to dramatize to the Baguio city council and the public that the artwork installed by them to patch up the city's potholes, are not too dangerous. He told the council earlier that accidents occurred because of the potholes that mosaic tiles covered up. EV ESPIRITU/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

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Filmmaker defends Baguio street mosaic

BAGUIO CITY—Filmmaker Kidlat Tahimik armed himself with pairs of his traction shoes and his mother's 1960s pumps and slippers when he proceeded on Sunday to show pedestrians just how safe the city's sidewalk mosaic art really is.

Tahimik said he brought the shoes to a recent session of the city council to preempt "the impeachment, or recall, or whatever [political word] is popular right now" of 168 colorful pieces of art that now cover potholes in the sidewalks of Session Road.

His son Kawayan de Guia, Ferdie Balanag and seven other city-based artists were commissioned by Mayor Braulio Yaranon to patch up the potholes using scrap glazed tiles and quick drying cement to spruce up the city for the 10th Baguio Flower Festival in February.

But De Guia and his colleagues have become the targets of critics, who insist that they have defaced public property using scrap materials that can cause accidents during the rainy season.

A proposed city measure orders the replacement of the sidewalk art.

But Leo Bernardez, city engineer, asked his personnel on July 15 to coat the mosaic tiles with rubber sealant instead, following reports that a woman had died from injuries she supposedly suffered from slipping on a tiled art piece in April.

Tahimik told the INQUIRER that he produced the shoes to show the council that artists should not be blamed for the accident.

Citing an Australian engineer's article on government liabilities from public infrastructure, Tahimik pointed out that many factors could be faulted for accidents occurring on public property.

"I did not want it to go on public record [at the council] that [De Guia and his crew] were responsible for bad [repair] work because just as many people slipped on the potholes [before these were repaired by the artists], and nobody complained then," he said.

Tahimik, who coordinated the flower festival programs, said the street art complaints apparently arise from a "commonsensical" notion that the scrap tiles "will be as slippery as the tiles of their bathrooms."

But he told the council on July 11 that the best footwear could also be useless against any surface with potholes, or surfaces littered with automobile oil, spilled sauces, "or the banana that trips [British comedian] Charlie Chaplin in the movies." *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Doctors' flight for jobs abroad worsen health services in Davao, Bicol hospitals

MATI, Davao Oriental—At least five doctors working in the Davao Oriental Provincial Hospital have resigned from their jobs in favor of foreign postings.

Things could become worse for the government's health service here, according to provincial health officer Dr. Resuldo Malintad.

Malintad said he foresaw similar resignations because the salaries offered them for overseas postings were "irresistible."

"Many plan to leave the country to work as nurses and caregivers in the United States and United Kingdom," Malintad said.

The doctors who recently quit their jobs were Norberto Teodoro Jr., Romeo Gamalong, Rey Gil, Gerald Eturalde and Victorio Cubero.

He said they could not do anything about their decisions. "We cannot stop them from leaving," he said.

Even if he wanted to prevent the doctors from leaving, the cash-strapped government could not afford to increase their salary, Malintad said.

The average monthly salary of government-paid doctors here is only P14,000, "which is a pittance compared to the P200,000 a month being offered by hospitals in the United States and United Kingdom," Malintad said.

"So we have to learn to accept the fact that sooner, many government hospitals will be reduced to mere clinics. A hospital without a single doctor can no longer be called a hospital but a clinic," he said.

Malintad even joked that because the government could no longer prevent doctors and other health workers from leaving the country, "perhaps we will be forced to hire quack doctors because we simply have no other choice."

"And I don't think the President would bother to mention this problem in her annual state of the nation address because her only concern now is her political survival. No wonder almost every Filipino wants to leave this country," Malintad told the INQUIRER.

No move

In Legazpi City, while the exodus of Bicol physicians continues, no move has been made to address the ailing condition of public health services in the region.

At least 60 medical doctors are needed in three Bicol provinces to fill up vacancies.

The lack of doctors in various district hospitals was discovered during a recent health facility assessment conducted by the Department of Health-Center for Health and Development in Bicol among public hospitals under it.

Dr. Allan Lucanas, DOH public health component in-charge, said that in Catanduanes alone, the Juan M. Alberto District Hospital in San Andres town has no doctor despite five slots allotted in its plantilla; the Viga District Hospital has one out of five in the plantilla; Gigmoto has one out of five.

In Masbate, the Cataingan District Hospital has two doctors out of five, while in the Ticao District Hospital in San Jacinto town, there is only one doctor out of five allotted.

The Bicol Regional Training and Teaching Hospital (BRTTH) in Legazpi City needs 17 doctors while the Bicol Medical Center in Naga City needs 23.

He said there were no takers for the 23 vacant positions at the BMC.

The Ziga Memorial and District Hospital in Tabaco City and Josefina Duran District Hospital in Ligao City have only three doctors each.

Lack of experts

Lucanas said health facilities were not properly used due to lack of experts, like doctors, who will use them.

He admitted that several of their colleagues had already left the country to work as nurses with higher pay.

A public health doctor receives only P20,000 a month minus withholding tax and other deductions that bring their take home pay to only P10,000 to P12,000, he said.

The exodus of physicians is expected to rise in the next few years in the region due to the government's neglect of those who are in the public health practice.

Lucanas said that scarcity of doctors in Bicol public hospitals is expected to worsen with the implementation of Executive Order 366 or the rationalization policy. EO 366 aims to retain only one person in every position in a certain office to avoid duplication of function.

Many doctors in various public hospitals in the region are now preparing to work abroad as an alternative once EO 366 takes effect.

He said that in Albay alone, some doctors were taking up nursing in preparation for the rationalization.

He added that if EO 366 was implemented, the public would suffer most because it would mean trimming the already limited number of physicians in the country. *Ferdinand Zuasola, PDI Mindanao Bureau and Job Belen, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

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383 C. Luzon, S. Tagalog workers win case vs PLDT

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—At least 383 workers of the Philippine Long Distance Co. won a case they filed against the firm after almost three years, reviving their chances for readmission to work.

In a decision issued on July 14, the Supreme Court's second division said Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas erred in excluding the workers from her return-to-work order to striking PLDT employees.

Sto. Tomas exempted those who were terminated due to redundancy in positions.

They belonged to the PLDT's operations service and traffic operations centers in the cities of Malolos, Tarlac, Batangas, Calamba, Davao, Iloilo and Lucena, and in Metro Manila, which were closed or downsized.

PLDT dismissed the workers on Dec. 31, 2002. They went on strike on Dec. 23 that year.

Their union, Manggagawa ng Komunikasyon sa Pilipinas, sued the telecommunications giant on their behalf before the Court of Appeals.

About 7,000 of 13,000 PLDT employees are members of MKP.

Finding "no reversible error" in the decision and resolution of the CA, the SC affirmed the action to nullify the order of Sto. Tomas.

It said the phrases "all striking or locked-out employees" and "readmit all workers" in Article 263(g) of the Labor Code "do not distinguish or qualify, and emphatically is a catch-all embracing enumeration of who should be returned to work."

"Where the law does not distinguish, courts should not distinguish," the Supreme Court said, citing at least three of its previous rulings.

"Time and again, this court has held that when an official bypasses the law on the asserted ground of attaining a laudable objective, the same will not be maintained if the purpose of the law would be defeated," the decision, penned by Associate Justice Minita Chico-Nazario, said.

Associate Justice Reynato Puno, chair of the second division, and Associate Justices Ma. Alicia Austria-Martinez, Romeo Callejo Sr. and Dante Tinga concurred.

The decision emphasized the situation of the employees. "Records would show that the strike occurred on Dec. 23, 2002. Article 263(g) directs that the employer must readmit all workers under the same terms and conditions prevailing before the strike," it said.

"Undoubtedly, on Dec. 22, 2002, [those who] were dismissed due to alleged redundancy were still employed by the petitioner and holding their respective positions. This is the status quo that must be maintained," it added.

Gemma Doble, one of those who were dismissed, said 86 of the 383 employees chose to accept the retirement packages offered by PLDT.

Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk

ROUNDUP

Radioman's 'killer' tagged

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—A policeman implicated in the July 3 murder of radio commentator Rolando Morales has allegedly identified the mastermind. But Chief Supt. Danilo Mangila, police chief for Central Mindanao and head of the Task Force Morales, refused to identify the policeman and the alleged mastermind, saying it would jeopardize the investigation and follow-up operations. Mangila said the policeman was under their custody and that based on his testimony, as well as on information gathered by the task force, a formal case against the alleged mastermind could be filed next week.

Aquiles Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau

NBI raids warehouse

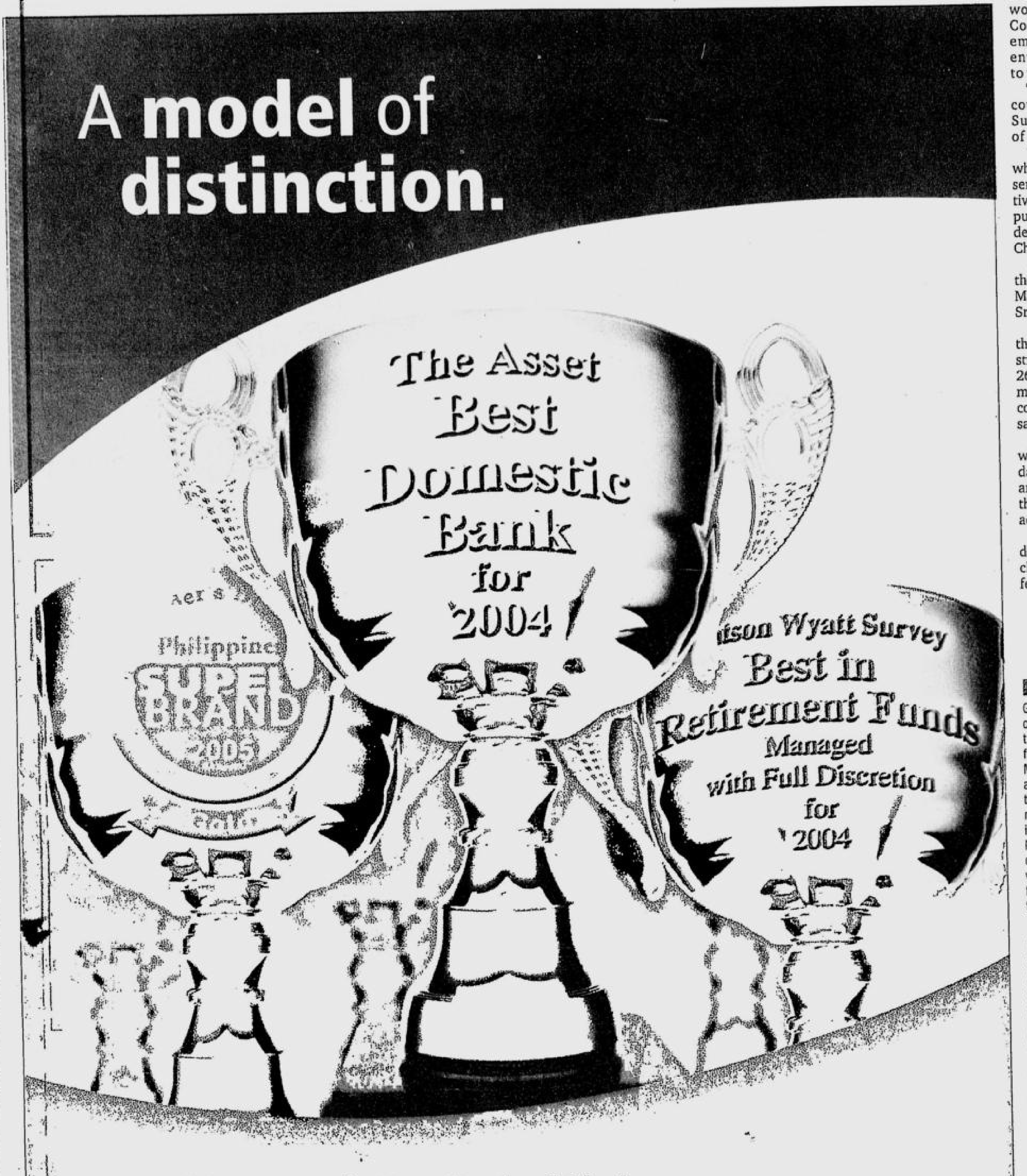
ROXAS CITY—A National Bureau of Investigation team raided on Wednesday a warehouse at the public market in Dumalag, Capiz where fake products of Nestlé Philippines were being repacked. With a search warrant issued by Regional Trial Court Executive Judge Edward Contreras of Branch 18, the team led by senior investigator Julio Cajita swooped down on Leocel Store. Seized from the establishment owned by Elegio Quinan were several boxes and bags of Nestlé products, such as Sticks, Nescafé, Milo and Coffeemate. Charges involving violation of the Intellectual Property Code of the Philippines were filed against Quinan and his men, the NBI said.

Felipe Celino, PDI Visayas Bureau

Extortion rap probed

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—The regional director of the Calabarzon police has ordered an investigation on the allegations that several policemen are extorting money from vegetable dealers passing through police checkpoints in the region. In a memorandum, Chief Supt. Jesus Versoza ordered all provincial police directors to act on the complaints of vegetable traders, who have accused policemen of asking money from the drivers of their cargo trucks "in [the] guise of legitimate checkpoint operation." He said the reported extortion activities had been prevalent, prompting the PNP to issue four memorandums in the last seven months. He also ordered all field commanders to "stop, once and for all, the extortion of any form along the highways." He said "all cargo trucks containing vegetables and other agricultural products, including hogs and poultry products, must be accorded undisturbed passage along the highway unless the said trucks [are] involved in serious violation of laws," he said.

Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau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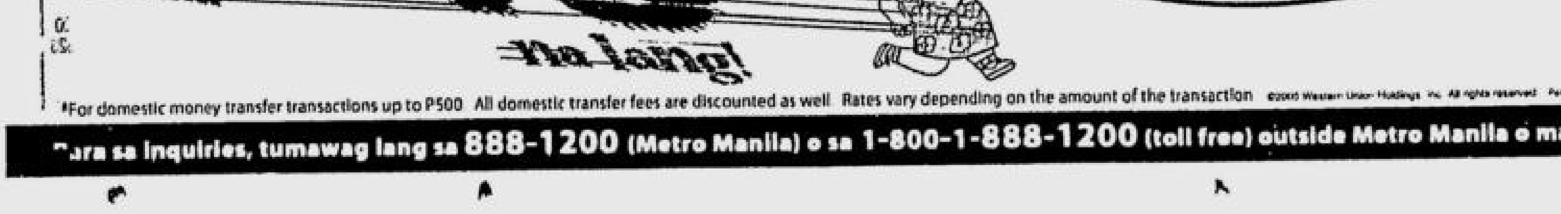
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Lepanto offers independent arbitration to settle strike

BAGUIO CITY—Striking workers, their families and members of militant groups walked peacefully out of the compound of Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. (LCMC) in Mankayan, Benguet, on Saturday afternoon, hours after overwhelming a police team at the firm's gate, reports reaching the INQUIRER showed.

But their resolve to reopen negotiations has apparently softened the LCMC management.

Lawyer Weldy Manlong, LCMC administrative services manager, renewed on Sunday the company's offer to elevate the dispute before an independent arbitration body to settle a more than a month strike.

The strike, which started on June 2, has also endured due to the dismissal of over 100 members and officials of the Lepanto Employees Union (LEU).

Manlong said the LEU has rejected an instruction from the Department of Labor and Employment to resolve issues about their dismissed members before the National Labor Relations Commission.

Union leaders, who were fired for leading the strike, wanted to discuss a memorandum of understanding instead with the company to resolve the status of 150 workers who were dismissed, said Hague Mangaoang, an LEU official, on Saturday.

Back channel talks

Manlong said back channel talks had reopened to allow the company and the union to seek an amicable settlement.

DOLE offered the services of 27 volunteer arbitrators but Manlong said the company might ask other institutions that were willing to intervene.

The Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry has engaged the services of independent arbitrators to help companies settle disputes out of court.

Manlong said the LCMC had not yet decided whether it would sue the 19 retrenched LEU officials and more than 1,000 people who forced their way through the LCMC's Gate 3.

Manlong said the group hurled rocks at a 50-member police force detailed at the LCMC, injuring at least three policemen.

The strikers proceeded to the LEU union hall and stayed there until 4 p.m. They left after extending their demands for internal negotiations with the company to exclude government arbitration.

Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas assumed jurisdiction over the strike and had ruled in July that the workers were entitled to a P25-daily pay hike for the first year, a P27-hike for the second year and a P29-increase for the third year of the collective bargaining agreement.

But union leaders refused to accept the ruling until the company withdrew its decision to fire the striking workers. *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Judge fines, jails local editor for contempt

NAGA CITY—Imposing a penalty of 90 days in prison and a P30,000-fine, a regional trial court here on July 20 cited an editor in a local paper for indirect contempt.

In an unprecedented case, Judge Felimon Montenegro of the RTC Branch 26, heard the side of Jose B. Perez, editor of Bicol Mail (BM), in the witness stand for more than one hour then immediately served the guilty verdict in an open court decision.

Montenegro absolved two other respondents, BM Publisher Nilo Aureus and BM Editorial Consultant Levi Aureus, after Perez took full responsibility of the news item that was the subject of the contempt charge.

The judge took offense on the banner story of the BM on July 14 with headline: "Witness vs Judge Montenegro—Money changed hands in Naga ejectment case."

The controversial BM banner headline came a day before he handed down the decision of the three motions filed in his sala that denied the motions for reconsideration, inhibition and new trial.

Perez explained in the witness stand that he only lifted the story from a copy of motion for reconsideration that he obtained from the office of the City Legal Officer.

He said the motion for reconsideration is a public document that can be used as material of story with great public interest.

Perez said he did not validate the story that was part of a poisoned letter against the judge which had been made part of the public document because his story had no intention of including other things.

In an order, Montenegro was not convinced with Perez's explanation that the publication of the subject news item was not to malign his integrity as judge and the judiciary as well.

He was not also convinced that BM's July 14 banner and the accompanying story does not constitute improper conduct tending directly or indirectly to impede, obstruct or degrade the administration of justice.

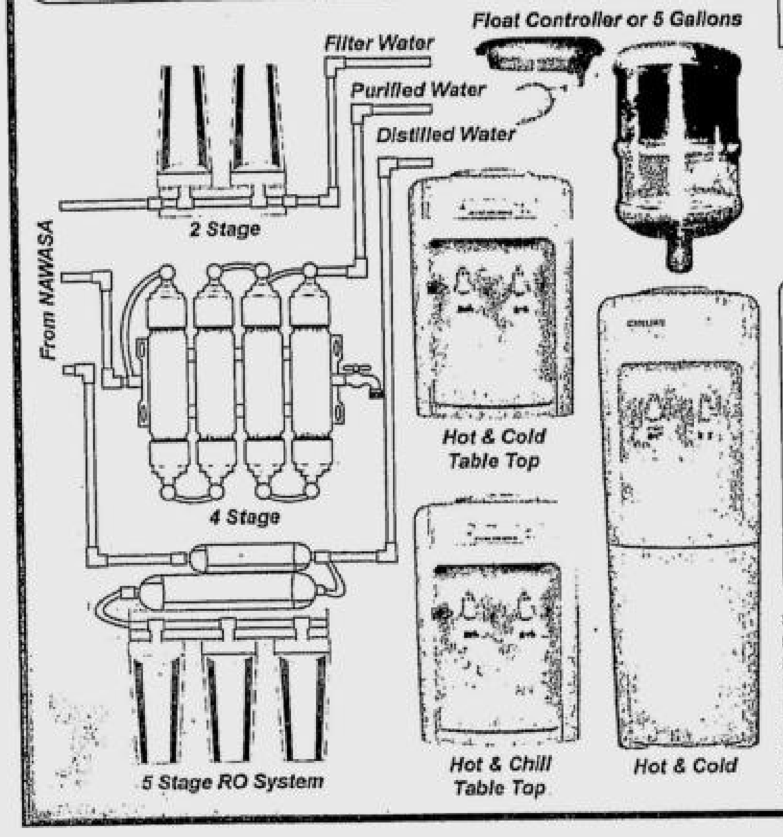
Montenegro also took note that "only the side of the defendant without considering the arguments of the plaintiffs and the rulings of the court, such is a blatant irresponsible reporting since the same are pending consideration before his court."

Lawyer Rolando Carandang, counsel of the three respondents, was surprised at the speed with which the judge handed down the decision and issuance of the order.

He also took note of the absence of bail bond in Montenegro's order that cited the contempt even as he was able to file a motion to fix bail.

He was also surprised at the high fine imposed, which according to him could be a Supreme Court standard and not for the lower court.

Carandang said they would file a motion for reconsideration aside from the motion to fix bail bond. *Juan Escandor Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*



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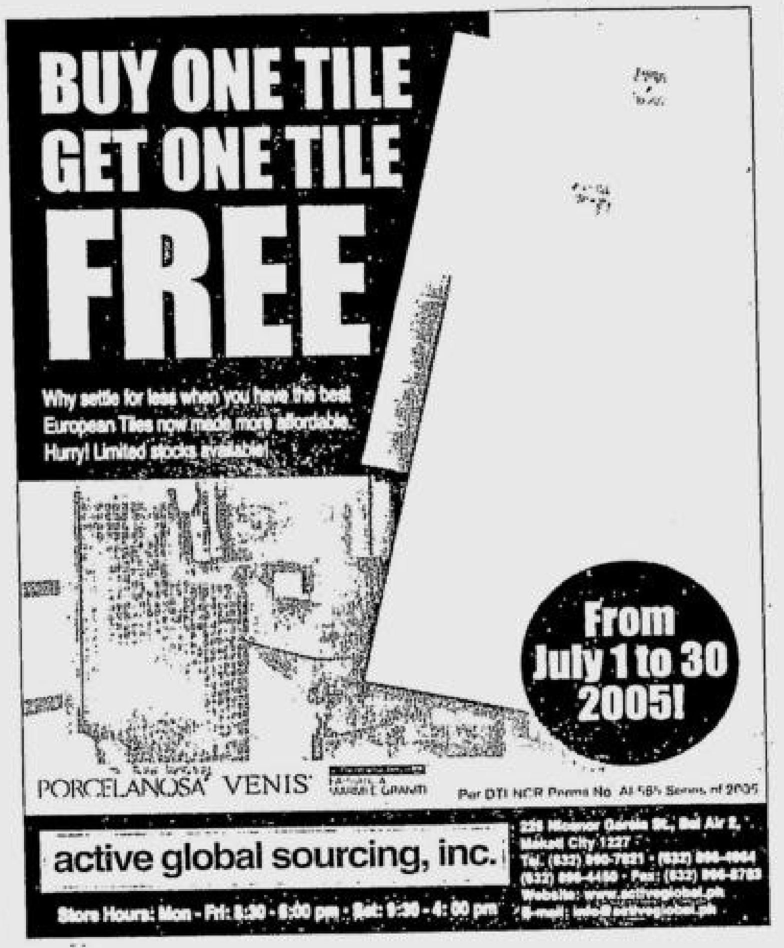

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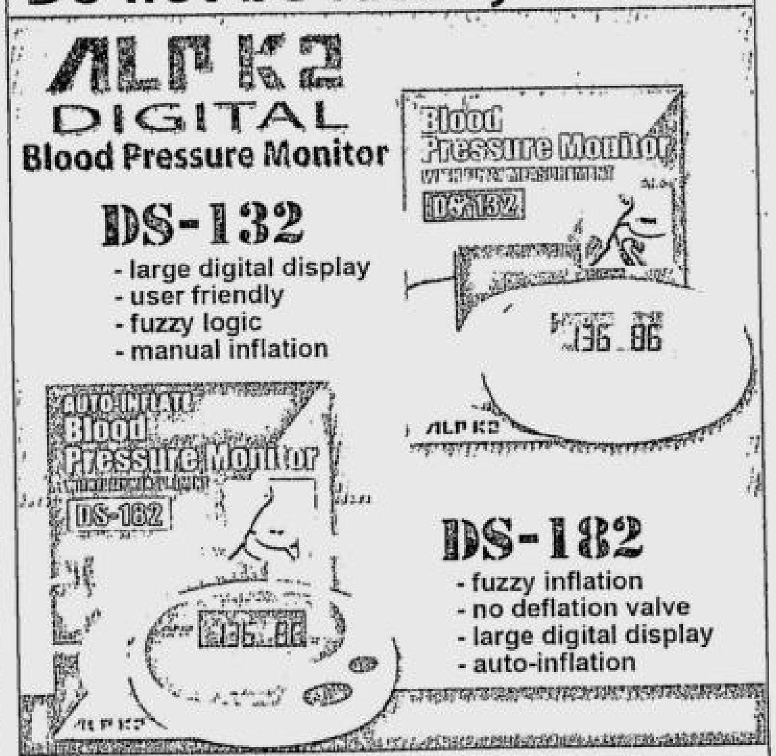

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  August 6 and 13, 2005 Saturday 9:00AM - 4:00 PM
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  August 8 - September 12, 2005 Monday 6:00PM - 8:30 PM
- CREATING A CORPORATE CULTURE FOR VALUES FORMATION AND WORK EXCELLENCE ATTITUDE
  August 9 - September 13, 2005 Tuesday 6:00PM - 8:30PM
- BRAND MANAGEMENT
  August 10 - September 14, 2005 Wednesday 6:00PM - 8:30 PM
- LAW FOR NON-LAWYERS
  August 13 - September 17, 2005 Saturday 1:00 PM - 3:30 PM
- MATERIALS AND INVENTORY MANAGEMENT
  August 13 - September 3, 2005 Saturday 3:30PM - 6:00 PM
- DYNAMICS OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT
  August 19 - September 23, 2005 Friday 6:00PM - 8:30 PM
- ACCOUNTING FOR NON-ACCOUNTANTS
  August 6 - September 3, 2005 Saturday 9:00AM - 12:00 NN
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  August 8 - 19, 2005 M-W-F 6:00PM - 8:00 PM
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Cash and Cash Items	P	518,222
Due from Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas		973,012
Due from Other Banks		1,377,766
Investments in Bonds and Other Debt Instruments (Net)		55,680,230
Loans, Discounts & Advances (Net)		10,869,715
Bank Premises, Furnitures, Fixtures, & Equipments (Net)		2,253,072
Others		415,060
TOTAL ASSETS	P	72,087,077
LIABILITIES		
Savings Deposits	P	1,078,844
Time Deposits		351,520
Unearned Income and Other Deferred Credits		866,856
Other Liabilities		2,179,939
TOTAL LIABILITIES	P	4,477,159
CAPITAL ACCOUNTS		
Capital Stock	P	50,000,000
Surplus		17,609,918
TOTAL CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	P	67,609,918
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	P	72,087,077

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OTHER INFORMATION

1. Deposits of:		
a.Governments	P	-
b.Banks		1,377,766
c.Trust Department		-
2. Compliance with Magna Carta Law:		
Prescribed		
Ratio of Compliance	6% for Small Enterprises	2% for Medium Enterprises
Actual Compliance	25.09%	0.00%
3. Amount of non-performing loans		-
4. Ratio of non-performing loans to total loan portfolio		0.00%
5. Amount of classified loans and other risk assets		-
6. General provision for loan losses		-
7. Specific provision for loan losses		39,921
8. Return on equity (ROE)		1.74%
9. Amount of DOSRI loans/advances		-
10. Ration of DOSRI loans/advances to total loan portfolio		0.00%
11. Amount of past due DOSRI loans/advances		-
12. Ratio of past due DOSRI loans/advances to total portfolio		0.00%

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President

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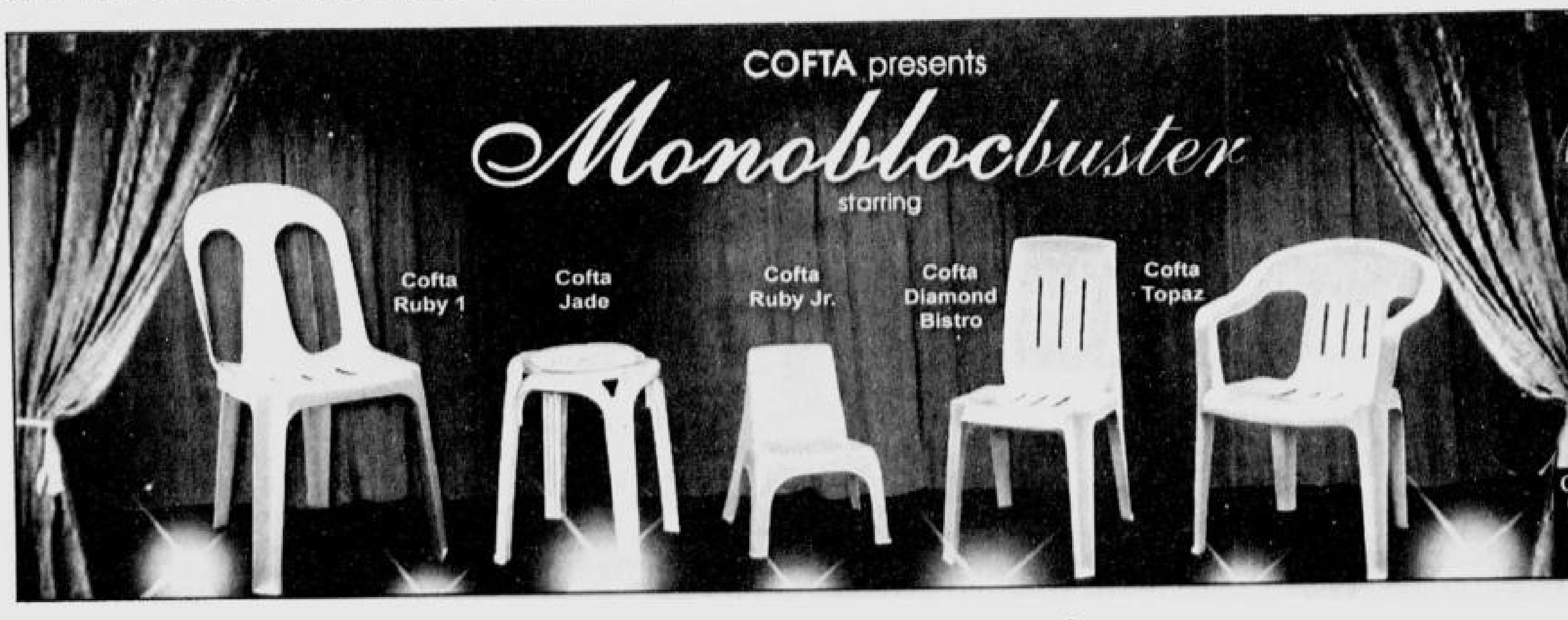

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Provinces brace for protest rallies

By PDI Bureaus

SOME 3,000 activists from Laguna massed up at the Crossing junction in Calamba City yesterday for a protest caravan that would reach its climax in a planned rally today when President Macapagal-Arroyo addresses the nation.

Another 4,000-strong contingent from Rizal, Cavite, Batangas and Quezon plans to join the caravan at the University of the Philippines' Diliman campus, according to the organizer, the Southern Tagalog for the Ouster of Gloria (Stop Gloria).

Bani Cambronero, Stop Gloria spokesperson, said the antigovernment streamers and placards they were carrying showed their protest was organized, peaceful and only intended for their calls to be heard.

Blowing hundreds of whistles and trumpets, the caravan let loose a deafening clamor for the removal of Ms Arroyo from office.

It also depicted through flags and streamers how the region had been allegedly victimized by the military's intense counterinsurgency operations, resulting in the harassment and killing of militant leaders.

Cambronero said his group could not rely on mere regime change because "we cannot allow VP Noli de Castro to take over."

Thousands of protesters calling for the ouster of Ms Arroyo were also expected to flock to the streets in Cebu, Iloilo, Capiz, Antique and Aklan to hold their own versions of the State of the Nation Address (Sona).

The militant Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) and the Arroyo Resign Movement (ARM-Panay) said around 4,000 protesters would join a rally in Iloilo City, 1,000 each in Roxas City in Capiz and in the capital town of Kalibo in Aklan, and around 500 in San Jose, Antique.

At least 5,000 people were expected to attend two separate rallies spearheaded by the Gloria Step-down Movement and the Laban ng Masa in Cebu.

Two transport groups will also hold a daylong strike in Cebu. These are the Alliance of Transport Organization Members intra-Cebu City (Atomic), and the Nagkahiusang Drayber sa Sugbo (Nadsu).

The police offices in Central and Western Visayas, as well as the Armed Forces Central Command, have beefed up security preparations.

In Iloilo City, two contingents of protesters will assemble in front of the UP campus and at the Jaro District public plaza before converging at the Iloilo Rotary Amphitheater. They will include barangay officials and town councilors.

In Cebu, two anti-Arroyo groups will march to reiterate their call for the President to resign.

Moros won't be fooled

About 3,000 people were expected to join the protest action spearheaded by the Gloria Step-down Movement (GSM) composed of Bayan and its affiliate organizations, Integrated Bar of the Philippines in (IBP) Cebu City, and Guardian faction of retired Col. Billy Bibit.

Senior Supt. Ronald Roderos, police deputy director for Central Visayas, said around 12 platoons of Civil Disturbance Management (CDM) members would be deployed in the different rally sites.

Members of militant organizations from North Cotabato, Davao City, Maguindanao, Davao del Norte, Davao del Sur and Davao Oriental plan to gather in Davao City for protest actions in time for the President's Sona.

Amirah Lidasan, Suara Bangsamoro national vice president, said the Moro people would never be fooled by the President's "sugar-coated pronouncements about her accomplishments."

"Mindanao was never in her agenda except for her war policies," said Nash Pangadapun, Maradeka secretary general. *With reports from Delfin T. Mallari Jr. and Romulo Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau; Nestor P. Burgos Jr. and Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau; and Jeffrey M. Tupas and Rolando Pinsoy, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Going to QC's Fairview? Avoid Commonwealth Ave.

By Tarra V. Quismundo
Metro

The FAIRVIEW-BOUND half of Commonwealth Avenue will be closed to traffic today, the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority said, anticipating a deluge of protesters to coincide with the President's State of the Nation Address.

"Motorists may just refrain from passing through the avenue because it would definitely be packed with vehicles," said MMDA Traffic Operations Center Executive Director Angelito Vergel de Dios.

The agency also expected an increase in vehicle volume, as the Unified Vehicle Volume Reduction Program (number coding) would be lifted today, a special nonworking holiday for Metro Manilans.

The eastbound portion of the Fairview-bound stretch of Commonwealth will be closed to vehicles from the turn at Elliptical Road until the entry at Doña Carmen Subdivision.

To accommodate displaced vehicles bound for Fairview, the westbound stretch will be divided and a counterflow will be created on the avenue's innermost lane, De Dios said.

The eight-lane, westbound half of the avenue will also be equally divided for a two-way traffic scheme, he said. Thus, motorists would have to put up with traversing a three-lane roadway along the way.

"Those westbound coming from Fairview may just avoid Commonwealth by taking Sauyo Road," said Vergel de Dios.

This narrower thoroughfare runs parallel to Commonwealth, and leads to Mindanao Avenue, from where motorists bound for Manila or Makati may take Elliptical Road toward their respective exits, he said.

PNP instructs men: Cool it, ignore taunts

From page A1

Philippine National Police Director General Arturo Lomibao did not only place the country's 115,000-strong police on the highest state of alert. He also implored the miraculous statue of the Virgin in Pangasinan.

"I prayed that [today's] events will be peaceful," Lomibao told reporters.

The Armed Forces also placed its units on full alert.

Organizers of today's protest actions coinciding with President Macapagal-Arroyo's State of the Nation Address (Sona) vowed the protests would be the biggest since she took power in 2001.

Besides Metro Manila, similar "Resign-GMA" mass actions are planned in the cities of Cebu, Iloilo, Capiz, Antique and Aklan in the Visayas and in Davao City, the center point of protests in Mindanao. *(See story above.)*

"We will try our best to reach 100,000," Bagong Alyansang Makabayan secretary general Renato Reyes Jr. said. "[If] we will double those who attended the Ayala rally, that will easily be a good 80,000 to 100,000."

As in past Sonas, today's main "battleground" will be Commonwealth Avenue leading to the Batasan complex.

"Barring terrorists or infiltrators, I think just between us we can keep the peace," PNP spokesperson Chief Supt. Leopoldo Bataoil said.

Militants gave a commitment that they would not provoke trouble.

"We won't push it," said Carl Ala of the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas. "There will be no violence from our end. What is important is that we can air the right issues."

But Ala expressed concern over reports that three busloads of militants bound for Metro Manila had been stopped by police in Tiaong in Quezon. Five buses carrying protesters were also blocked in Tarlac and Nueva Ecija, he said.

Yesterday, Lomibao knelt in a church in his home province.

Beseeching the Virgin

"I offered prayers to the Miraculous Lady of Manaoag for intercession that peace and order will always reign in our country," he said.

"They are under strict instructions to exercise maximum tolerance at all times, but are given the option to apply reasonable force as a last recourse when it becomes necessary to maintain order," Lomibao added.

About 6,000 PNP men backed by hundreds of soldiers will guard the Batasan Pambansa complex where Ms Arroyo is to speak at past 4 p.m.

"We will simply support the police, who are the lead agency, said Capt. Ramon Zagala of the AFP's NCR Command.

Prayer and fasting

Elite and armored units are on standby inside Camp Aquinaldo. They will be deployed when necessary, Zagala said.

Even if demonstrators are armed with rotten fruits and vegetables—as they sometimes are—the antiriot policemen should just let them be, Bataoil said.

"Even a US president gets pelted with tomatoes," he said.

Bataoil said the instructions to the men were: "Cool it. Be extra-tolerant. Ignore the taunts. They won't hurt you anyway."

About 200 people, mostly from the middle class, converged yesterday for prayer and fasting at the People Power Monument on Edsa to press for change not just in the country's leadership but also in the country's soul.

Running priest Fr. Robert Reyes was on his 15th day of fasting in the area.

Nothing has changed

Former Pangasinan Gov. Oscar Orbos said the "miracles" of Edsa I and II had failed to sustain the country because Filipinos lacked a sense of self-sacrifice and devotion to prayers.

Nicky Perlas, an organizer, said the middle class had not gone to the streets in force as seen previously because "they saw that nothing changed after Edsa I and II."

"What we want is to put a spiritual dimension to Edsa. The removal of GMA alone will not solve our woes," said Perlas, who was with a group calling on Ms Arroyo to resign. "We need a spiritual foundation."

Among those who joined the prayer and fasting were "jueteng" whistle-blowers Sandra Cam and Boy Mayor. Archbishop Oscar Cruz also dropped by.

Organizers of today's protests include Bayan, the Estrada loyalist group People's Movement Against Poverty, and the National Council of Concerned Volunteers composed of the late actor Fernando Poe Jr.'s supporters.

Show biz stars, too

Rez Cortez, NCCV chair, said leaders from the United Opposition, including Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay and San Juan Mayor JV Ejercito, would also attend.

"There will also be business groups from the FPJ campaign," Cortez added. "Actors and actresses will be there."

He said Poe's widow, Susan Roces, "has yet to tell us whether she's coming or not."

Aside from Bayan and the United Opposition, Sanlakas and its allied militant groups will be on Commonwealth.

An American ally

Leftist militants demanding Ms Arroyo's resignation seemed to have found an ally in former US Attorney General Ramsey Clark.

In a taped interview with Bayan-USA, Clark said there was a "failure of integrity" in the Philippine government and that Filipinos must do something about it.

"Every person on earth has a duty to insist upon the integrity of his or her own government," he said in a taped interview with Bayan-USA coordinator Berna Ellorin.

Clark was attorney general during US President Lyndon Johnson's administration. Known as a human rights lawyer, he gave legal advice to Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein after the latter was toppled from power.

"It seems awfully important to me, from a distance, that the people of the Philippines face up to the failure of integrity of their own government. If you don't have integrity in your own government, particularly in the highest position, the President, you can't expect the government to protect or serve the people," he said, according to the militant group.

"We have a situation there which clearly calls for [Ms Arroyo] to step down," Clark added, according to Bayan.

Lizard-like effigy ready ...

From page A1

evolved in the eyes of militant groups which helped catapult her to power in 2001 via Edsa II.

"The Arroyo administration has resisted all attempts by the people to remove her from office. She has preempted the impeachment process. She has turned deaf to calls for her resignation. '*Kapit-tuko*' is how we best describe her now," said Bayan secretary general Renato Reyes.

Kapit-tuko is how Tagalogs metaphorically describe those who tenaciously cling to power despite all signs showing they have lost the confidence of their people, militants said.

Hence, the comparison to a giant lizard, or *tuko*, known for its tight reptilian grip, they said.

"We're planning to paint the lizard's body with colors of [military] camouflage to show the fascist and militarist character of (Ms Arroyo)," said Budo de Guzman, chairperson for University of the Philippines-Diliman of the artists' group Ugat Lahi.

As of late afternoon yesterday, De Guzman said his group had yet to paint the 10-foot tall and 13-foot long papier-mache of a lizard on top of a scale model of Malacañang Palace.

"But compared to past projects, we're still early this time around," De Guzman said.

The artist explained that his group started work on the effigy only a week ago. He said what took most of their time was the six-layer papier-mache process and the terra-cotta clay mold they did for the President's image.

"That's a difficult process," he said.

Rivaling Erap-zilla

De Guzman, who has been with Ugat Lahi since 2000, said the new Arroyo effigy was the second biggest that his group had done on the occasion of a State of the Nation Address.

The biggest, according to his recollection, is still the Erap-zilla effigy of then President Joseph Estrada who delivered his last Sona in 2000.

Erap-zilla was conceptualized at a time when the Godzilla monster of the movie was still vivid in the public's imagination and Estrada was approaching his last days in power.

"That was, I think, 12-foot tall. This one is just 10 feet," De Guzman said.

There were other concepts that Ugat Lahi presented to Bayan for this year's Sona effigy.

Giant compact disc

One, De Guzman said, was of a likeness of Ms Arroyo standing on a giant compact disc in obvious reference to the "Gloriagate" tapes that have cast doubts on her legitimacy as President.

"But political developments have led us to pursue the *kapit-tuko* concept because she doesn't want to resign," De Guzman said.

Through the years, Bayan and Ugat Lahi's perception of Ms Arroyo has evolved as the President came up with policies or committed acts which the militants deemed inimical to what they saw as the public good.

The first effigy of Ms Arroyo was the suspenseful Gloria in a Box, patterned after the Jack in the Box toy showing Jack as he springs out of the box to the surprise and delight or dread of children.

Metamorphosis

"We still didn't know how Ms Arroyo would be like as President at that time. So we presented her as a Jack in the Box," Reyes told the INQUIRER.

Then in 2002, a year after Bayan's allied party-list group Bayan Muna ran and topped the party-list elections as part of the Arroyo administration's election slate, the militant group's perception of Ms Arroyo soured as her links with the militants and some sectors of civil society frayed.

When the administration dismissed civil society leader Pastor Saycon as an "*anay*" or termite for criticizing the fledgling government, Bayan lashed back with the Gloria-*anay* effigy during her Sona that year.

It was around that time that Ms Arroyo severed her ties with the militant groups, branding them as "legal communists" or fronts for the Communist Party of the Philippines.

A fighter jet

In 2003, Ugat Lahi came up with a Running Glo—a mechanized effigy propped up on a mobile platform, its arms and legs moving in a running motion as the image rolled down Commonwealth Avenue.

"This was the time [after] Ms Arroyo said that she was not running [for president], yet [her body language] then showed that she had plans of running in the elections," Reyes said.

After the 2004 election, Ms Arroyo was presented as a half-vulture, half F-16 fighter jet.

Going up in flames

De Guzman said the 2004 effigy showed the rottenness of the administration and its militarist tendencies.

Asked what it feels like to see their artworks go up in flames during protests, he said: "Of course, you'd have feelings that all your efforts are going to waste because the thing that you worked on would just be burned."

"But that's the highest level these artworks can get—seeing the rotten character of the administration go up in flames," De Guzman said.

45% of Sona listeners await lies

From page A1

big empty promises, devious maneuverings, motherhood statements, dead and dry statistics, unrealistic projections," Cruz said in a statement.

The prelate wants Ms Arroyo to be sincere enough to divulge the real condition of the country and its prospects in the near future amid a battered economy and a volatile political situation made even more unstable by allegations that she had cheated her way to office.

The survey, conducted from July 2 to 14, also found that the trust and performance ratings of Ms Arroyo dipped to new lows.

A record 59 percent of Filipinos now distrust Ms Arroyo, up from 53 percent in June, according to Pulse Asia. Only 17 percent express trust in her, down from 20 percent in June and 35 percent in March.

The survey covered 1,200 representative adults and had a margin of error of plus or minus three percentage points at the 95-percent confidence level.

In a statement, Pulse Asia said a large number of people did not even believe Ms Arroyo's past Sonas.

Of those aware of Ms Arroyo's previous addresses, a big plurality (44 percent) said the past Sonas were not truthful. Only 18 percent believed otherwise and 38 percent were undecided.

Ranked the lowest

In terms of performance rating, Ms Arroyo ranked the lowest when compared with the four previous presidents, including former strongman Ferdinand Marcos, according to Pulse Asia.

They were rated on six issues: politically stabilizing the country, promoting economic growth, reducing corruption in government, reducing criminality, helping the poor, and fighting the rapid increase in prices of goods and services.

Ms Arroyo obtained an overall median performance rating of only 4 on a scale of 0 (lowest) to 10 (highest), indicating that half of Filipino adults gave her a performance rating of at most 4.

The corresponding overall median performance rating of her three predecessors (former Presidents Corazon C. Aquino, Fidel V. Ramos and Joseph E. Estrada), is 6, while that of Marcos is 7.0.

Battered by controversy after controversy, Ms Arroyo saw her approval and trust ratings plummet this July.

Highest distrust rating

People in Mindanao and Metro Manila gave the President her highest distrust rating at 67 and 72 percent, respectively. The level of distrust goes up by double-digit margins in Metro Manila (by -12 percentage points) and in Mindanao (by -15 percentage points).

It is in the Visayas where the President enjoys her highest trust rating (31 percent), according to Pulse Asia. However, the level of trust is marginally lower than the level of distrust (37 percent).

A considerable majority of Filipinos (58 percent), Pulse Asia said, disapproved of Ms Arroyo's performance, down from 46 percent in June, and 34 percent in March.

Only 19 percent of Filipinos currently express approval of Ms Arroyo's performance and 22 percent are ambivalent on the matter.

The President's performance ratings are generally constant across socioeconomic classes and geographic areas, according to Pulse Asia. People in the Visayas show the most approval of the President (38 percent) while those in Metro Manila (68 percent) and Mindanao (69 percent) are most critical.

Members of the First Family also took a beating and posted higher distrust ratings than the President.

Father and son

First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo posted a 70-percent distrust rating, up from 62 percent last month.

The distrust rating for Pampanga Rep. Juan Miguel Arroyo rose to 64 percent from 61 percent last month.

Only a small minority of Filipinos said they trusted the First Gentleman (8 percent) and Congressman Arroyo (11 percent). The survey period included the departure of the President's husband and son from the country, amid allegations of their involvement in "jueteng" payoffs.

Many of those surveyed appear to have made up their mind on the reported involvement of members of the First Family in jueteng, an illegal numbers racket.

The survey found that a big majority (81 percent) believe that members of the President's family are involved in jueteng. Even in the Visayas, 62 percent believe that some members of the President's family are involved in and benefit from jueteng.

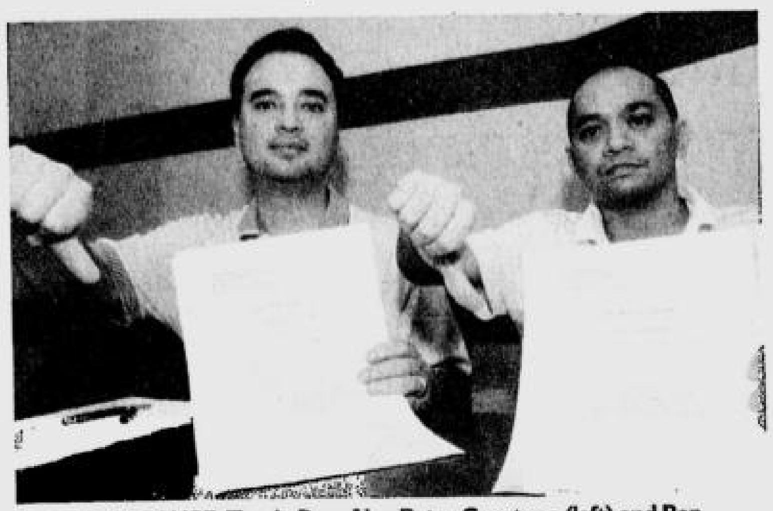
Majority favor resignation

To add to Ms Arroyo's woes, 52 percent of Filipinos think that she should resign after she admitted to have talked to a Commission on Election official during the canvassing of the May 2004 elections.

This belief cuts through a considerable majority of those in the different geographic areas (54 percent to 59 percent) and socioeconomic classes (46 percent to 54 percent) except again in the Visayas where 38 percent think the President should focus more on state matters. But it was noted that 30 percent of Visayans believes the President should resign.

Significantly, only 19 percent said they would prefer the President focusing on state matters. Nearly the same number of those surveyed said they favored leaving it to Congress to undertake legal moves against the President, including the filing of impeachment charges.

The creation of a truth commission to investigate accusations the President participated in electoral fraud was not taken up in the survey. *Reports from Alcuin Papa and Christian V. Esguerra in Manila; and Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*



COMMON CAUSE. Taguig Rep. Alan Peter Cayetano (left) and Rep. Florencio Noel show their copies of an amended impeachment complaint against President Arroyo to be filed in the House today. JESS YUSON

12 votes short to impeach

From page A1

Regardless of the number of signatories, Speaker Jose de Venecia yesterday said he would set the impeachment process in motion today. He said he would not wait for 10 days to transmit to the House committee the complaints filed against Ms Arroyo last month by lawyers Oliver Lozano and Roy Lopez.

De Venecia said any changes to the complaints would be included in his transmittal as soon as he received them.

The move to impeach Ms Arroyo stemmed from revelations in a wiretapped telephone conversation that she cheated in the May 2004 elections. Ms Arroyo has apologized for talking to an election official during the balloting but has vehemently denied any wrongdoing.

Although Ms Arroyo has said she will submit herself to the impeachment trial, a reply by her lawyer to the impeachment complaint last week stirred another controversy in Congress. Her opponents said the answer was meant to torpedo, by a technicality, the impeachment process.

"Malacañang and the opposition are in *pari delicto*; they are equally guilty of bad faith in the current crisis," said administration Sen. Joker Arroyo.

"Malacañang's preemptive move of prematurely filing, without being asked to, an answer to the sham impeachment complaint betrays that the President is getting bum advice to short-circuit, on the flimsiest of technicalities, the process of impeachment. This trivializes the sacrosanct process of impeachment, which will unleash a public backlash, as it happened in 2001," warned Arroyo.

Circumspection urged

Reminding that Ms Arroyo was swept into power after the impeachment trial of President Joseph Estrada in 2001, the feisty senator said the Chief Executive "should invest the impeachment proceedings with the circumspection and respect it deserves."

Arroyo also noted that various opposition leaders had stated that if Ms Arroyo were removed they would not recognize Vice President Noli de Castro and would "arrogate" unto themselves the power to name her successor.

"Malacañang and the opposition are locked in a dangerous zero-sum battle for power, heedless of the country's interest. This is politics at its worst. This controversy will not end. Treachery is everywhere," he said.

Opposition lawmakers said they would take the battle to oust the President to the streets if her allies in Congress blocked the impeachment complaint.

Opposition lawmakers have finalized the complaint—a draft claimed Ms Arroyo "stole, cheated and lied" to rise and stay in power—that they planned to file before she delivered her nationally televised State of the Nation Address in Congress, Rep. Rolex Suplico said.

54-page complaint

The 54-page complaint cites three grounds for impeachment: culpable violation of the Constitution, betrayal of public trust, and bribery and graft and corruption.

"If there is no chance for our complaint to be accepted by the House, we intend to withdraw it and tell the people that there is no hope in the impeachment process," Suplico said. "We can now go to the streets."

Left-wing lawmakers have warned that a "people power" revolt, similar to those that ousted dictator Ferdinand Marcos in 1986 and Estrada in 2001, could erupt if pro-Arroyo lawmakers, who comprise a strong majority in the House, use their numbers or legal tactics to kill or weaken the impeachment complaint.

Anti-Arroyo protests have failed so far to generate the numbers or staying power of the earlier revolts.

Pro-Arroyo lawmakers could approve restrictive impeachment rules, including banning the wiretaps as evidence, that could make a conviction less likely, Suplico said.

Majority Leader Prospero Nograles joined the Speaker in assuring the nation that the House would "act according to the rules and the Constitution," and that the "leadership will be fair in the handling of the impeachment complaints."

"We will act swiftly and in a transparent manner," Nograles said, stressing that the proposed rules on impeachment of the House will be subjected to a plenary debate after the Sona, or starting tomorrow.

"We are interested in having the rules swiftly approved. It is up to the opposition if they will stonewall or delay the approval of the rules of impeachment," Nograles said.

Major legal blunder

Despite the initial opposition outcry over the response to the complaint filed by Ms Arroyo's lawyer, Pedro Ferrer, former Solicitor General Frank Chavez said that, in fact, Ferrer had made a "major legal blunder" when he promptly answered the impeachment complaint to preempt the filing of a stronger case.

"In prematurely filing an answer, she has abandoned all objections to the jurisdiction of the House over the impeachment case, which is a matter of right on her part," said Chavez, who is reportedly being considered by the opposition as one of the private prosecutors in the case.

Chavez said Ms Arroyo inadvertently waived that right.

Ms Arroyo has voluntarily submitted to the jurisdiction of the House, and in doing so, likewise submitted herself to the jurisdiction of the House Rules and the Rules of Court, said Chavez.

She admitted, in effect, the sufficiency in form and substance of the complaint, he said.

Since she has not been served a copy of the complaint by Congress, then amendment of the complaint is a matter of right on the part of Lozano and the opposition.

Chavez explained that the House impeachment rules and the Rules of Court would always operate independently of any action from the respondent, and "can't be subject to any action from the respondent."

He then said that Ms Arroyo's answer "will simply form part of the records," so the opposition should not raise a howl of protest over what Ferrer had described as an "anticipatory pleading."

"When the supplemental complaint is filed (by the opposition), she is entitled to file a supplemental answer," Chavez said. *With reports from Christine O. Avendaño and Jeoffrey Maitem, PDI Mindanao Bureau, AP*

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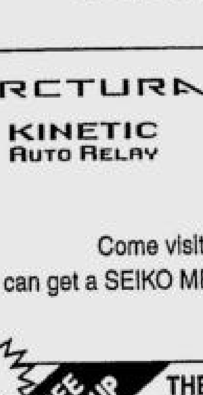

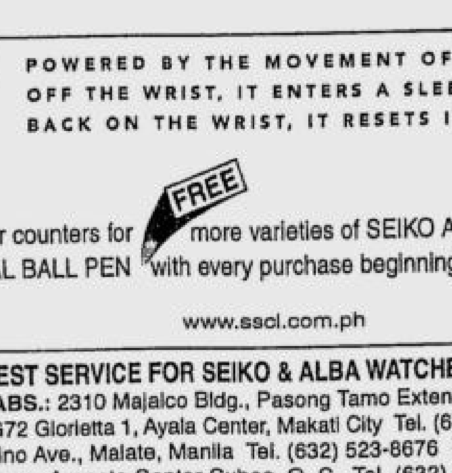

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MMDA to clear inner streets of obstruction

By Tarra V. Quismundo

HELP us create safe inner city sidewalks for pedestrians.

The Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) aired this appeal to barangay leaders yesterday, noting that the capital region's commuting public was being deterred from passing through secondary roads by the sight of obstruction.

"I am calling on all barangay officials to help us clear obstructions on sidewalks. We are not yet finished with this program," said MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando, in his weekly program "MMDA sa GMA" over dzBB radio.

Fernando explained that pedestrians end up taking different routes to walk to their destination, as they would be frightened by the sight of half-naked men loitering on sidewalks or caged animals, or kept away by signages encroaching on the road right-of-way.

Afraid of clutter

"Actually, secondary roads are alternate pathways for commuters but they are afraid of passing through because of the clutter they see," said Fernando.

As the agency's Sidewalk Clearing Operations Group continues to remove road obstructions, Fernando said roughly 50 percent more of the metro's roadways would require clearing to free sidewalks from clutter.

The clearing of Metro Manila's sidewalks was among the first programs Fernando implemented when he became MMDA chair in July 2002.

The agency's sidewalk clearing, much criticized by sidewalk vendors who have been the most affected by the operations, was conceived to give sidewalks back to pedestrians.

The MMDA has cleared and spruced up the stretch of Quirino Avenue in Manila and roads near the Ninoy Aquino International Airport, as part of its sidewalk clearing program and preparations for the 112th Inter-Parliamentary Union general assembly held in April.

For his 59th birthday today, though, the MMDA chair had one other wish.

Nice gift

"It would be a nice gift if tricycle drivers could help us prevent pocket flooding by checking on the canals nearest their terminals whenever it rains. They could unclog overflowing waterways by simply removing trapped plastic bags," said Fernando.

Hand-in-hand with sidewalk clearing in its aim of making Metro Manila commuter-friendly, the MMDA has been conducting continuous clean-up and unclogging of canals and creeks to prevent flooding in the metro's roads in the event of heavy rain.

Barangay pays tribute to a fruit

CRAVING for jackfruit?

This barangay in Marikina City wants to adopt it as its official fruit. And why not?

Jackfruit is called *langka* in Filipino or *nangka* a few decades back. It is where the 287-hectare Barangay Nangka got its name.

"We used to have many jackfruit trees in our barangay. And we still have several areas planted with jackfruit trees now," barangay chair Felipe Urrutia said.

The area, nestled along the Marikina River, teemed with jackfruit trees a century ago.

"To pay tribute and homage to the (jackfruit), it is therefore necessary to adopt Nangka or Langka Tree as local tree and its fruit as the local fruit of Barangay Nangka," a barangay resolution read.

The resolution was approved by the barangay late last year and has been endorsed to the City Council.

"We want to be the Langka Capital of Marikina City," Urrutia said. *Edson Tandoc Jr.*

Tet Antiquiera, '80s bold star, dies

By DJ Yap

TET ANTIQUIERA, one of the so-called bold actresses who sizzled on the silver screen in the early '80s, died Saturday night at her home in Quezon City. She was 45.

Antiquiera (Teresita de Vega in real life) was found lifeless inside her house at 21 Premier Court Subdivision, Capitol Hills, Diliman, police said.

Her son Carlo saw her sprawled in the living room at about 9:30 p.m. and immediately called for help.

Natural cause

A neighbor, Dr. Philip Tan, tried to revive the former bold star but she was already dead, police said.

Family members and police concluded that Antiquiera died of natural causes, but did not say if she suffered from an illness.

Her family refused to have her autopsied.

Antiquiera was a sexy actress who starred in such movies as "Wanted! Wives," "Tambay sa Disco," "Ako, Ikaw... Magkaagaw!" and "Miss Extra Especial."

In 1995, the actress figured in a minor controversy when drug charges were filed against her and two companions, for allegedly engaging in a "pot session" inside her house.

The charges against Antiquiera and boyfriend Ramon Gutierrez were later dropped, but the complaint against their companion was not.

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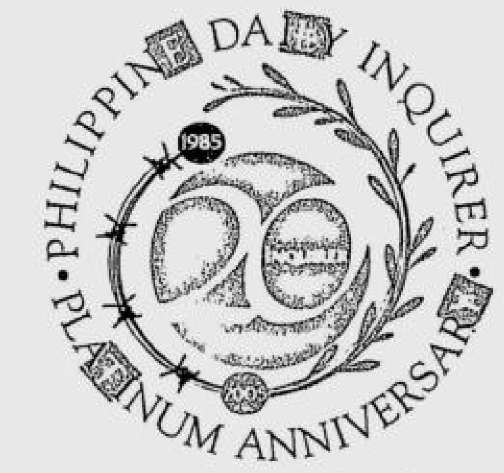

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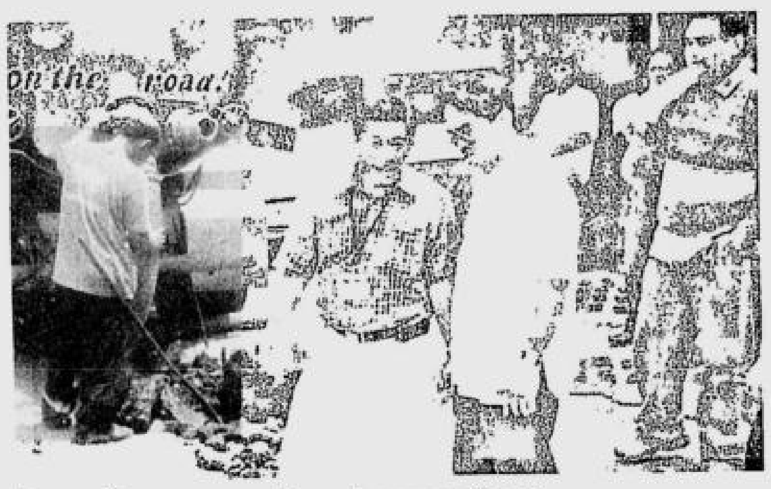

Parañaque unclogging project

GETTING ready for rain, workers of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority unclog a drainage canal in Barangay Don Bosco in Parañaque City. Don Bosco chair Jun Virata (in white pants) and Parañaque Mayor Florencio Bernabe Jr. (in white shirt) are on hand to supervise the project.

Las Piñas City residents get health cards

INDIGENT families of Las Piñas City have just gained government-subsidized health insurance, with the city government's recent distribution of PhilHealth cards. In a press statement, the local government announced yesterday the release of PhilHealth cards to 200 urban poor families as part of the city's "Kalusugan para sa Mamamayan" program. "The health of the people is one thing that we cannot compromise. And I believe that it is our duty to give them hospitalization assistance," said Las Piñas Mayor Imelda Aguilar in a statement. The project is an ongoing undertaking with the help of PhilHealth Inc., which City Hall said would provide hospitalization aid to low-income families. The city said it would continue to pursue its program toward "illness prevention."

Tarra V. Quismundo

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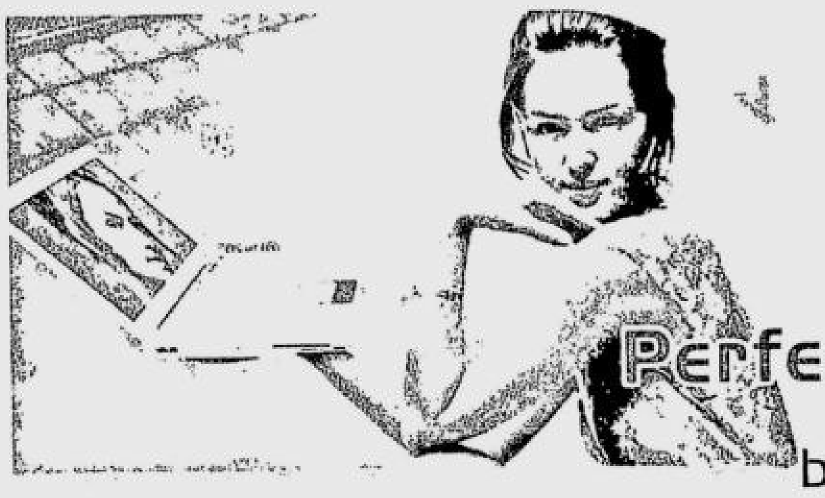

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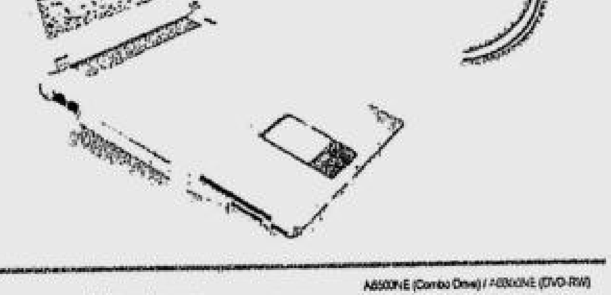

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VALENTINE'S DAY BOMBING

Judge says verdict out in a month

By Tarra V. Quismundo

AT A PACE that seems rare in the country's courts, the trial looking into the Valentine's Day bombing in Makati City wrapped up Thursday afternoon after four months of hearings.

And in similar fashion, Makati Regional Trial Court Branch 60 Judge Marissa Guillen said she might have a verdict by Aug. 25, about a month from the trial's close on July 21.

Guillen would be rendering judgment on three accused: confessed Abu Sayyaf members Gamal Baharan, alias Tapay; Angelo Trinidad, and Indonesian terror suspect Rohmat Abdurrohim, alias Jackie Zaky.

The three were tried for multiple murder and multiple frustrated murder arising from the bombing of a bus on Edsa near Ayala Avenue last Feb. 14.

Four people were killed while 60 others were hurt in the incident.

The charges entail a punishment of death through lethal injection, as repeatedly noted by Guillen in open court.

"The key in this speedy trial was efficient police work, credible intelligence, and the promptness and decisiveness of the judge and prosecutors," said Senior State Prosecutor Emmanuel Velasco, who pursued the case against the accused.

The trial was wrapped up in less than six months. It has outpaced the trial of the 2000 Rizal Day Light Rail Transit bombing case, which is still pending in the Manila Regional Trial Court.

A major development that helped expedite the hearing of the Feb. 14 case were the admissions of Baharan and Trinidad to planting the bomb on the bus.

Lone defense witness

At the trial's conclusion, Abdurrohim took the witness stand as the lone defense witness, and tearfully denied any involvement in planning the deadly attack.

"I do not know anything about the plan. I only went there to teach Islam and kung fu," a trembling Abdurrohim told the court during a three-hour hearing Thursday afternoon.

With tears welling in his eyes, the 27-year-old Indonesian said he was asked to come to Mindanao through Zamboanga City from his boarding school in Java, Indonesia, to work as a missionary.

"I don't know how to make bombs and firearms. Even once in my life, I never called him (Boy Negro)," said Abdurrohim, his Filipino with a distinct accent.

He was referring to state witness Gappal Bannah Asali, the prosecution's key witness who had testified that Abdurrohim taught bomb-making to Abu Sayyaf members and ordered him by phone to carry bomb parts to Metro Manila for a mission early this year.

Clad in rubber slippers, a worn-out shirt and jeans, Abdurrohim shivered inside the air-conditioned courtroom as government-appointed lawyers directed his testimony.

In open court, he repeated that he was merely contracted for a 10-month teaching stint in a camp of armed men, which according to him he only later came to know as the Abu Sayyaf, or Harok-al-Islamiyah.

"I am not a member of the Abu Sayyaf. How can I be, when what they want is to separate from the Philippines, and I am already free there in Indonesia?" he said.

"In spite of my fear of them, I continued teaching them because I felt it was my duty to teach them Islam, which is a religion of peace," said the defense witness.

However, Velasco did not buy Abdurrohim's defense, saying the accused's testimony belied what he had voluntarily told investigators who interviewed him after his arrest.

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nang hindi nangangapa
kung gumabi't dumilim na.
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PONDERING THE FUTURE

LYN RILLON

Eighty-one-year-old Benjamin Martinez appears to be in deep thought as he waits for his wife, who is manning their small *sari-sari* store near a construction site in Makati City.

Holiday foils UNO walkout plan

UNITED Opposition (UNO) member San Juan Mayor JV Ejercito said yesterday that Malacañang's declaration of a holiday today preempted a planned walkout of public school students and office workers in line with President Macapagal-Arroyo's State of the Nation Address (Sona).

But while UNO attacked the holiday declaration, Malacañang defended the declaration saying it was meant to enable Filipinos to listen to the Sona. *Edson C. Tandoc Jr.*

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MOTOR SPORTS: 2005 F1 German Grand Prix Race Day; 2:30 p.m. (r0; STAR Sports—Shift to reverse and witness the race over the weekend.

CYCLING: Tour de France Stage 21; 3 p.m.; ESPN—Can Lance Armstrong ride his way to victory on the Champs Elysees?

BASKETBALL: NBA Summer League; 11 a.m. (r-11 p.m.); Solar Sports—Portland clashes with Washington.

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Tams tame Tigers; Eagles soar

By Jasmine W. Payo

EXPLOITING their deeper bench, the Far Eastern U Tamaraws crushed the University of Santo Tomas Tigers, 76-62, to remain the only unbeaten team in the UAAP basketball tournament yesterday at the Blue Eagle Gym in Loyola Heights.

GAMES THURSDAY
(*Araneta Coliseum*)
10 a.m.—NU vs FEU (Jrs)
12 p.m.—La Salle vs UST (Jrs)
2 p.m.—NU vs FEU (Srs)
4p.m.—La Salle vs UST (Srs)

The Tamaraws cruised to their fourth straight win behind league star Arwind Santos, who dominated with 15 points, 16 rebounds and two blocks.

"We can't be overconfident," said FEU coach Bert Flores. "We have to keep on doing the same things and improve on our defense. We have to be ready and continue working."

The Ateneo Eagles also easily powered their way to an 83-51 triumph over the hapless National U Bulldogs.

The game was decided early on as Doug Kramer delivered a career-high 18 points on top of 12 rebounds and two blocks.

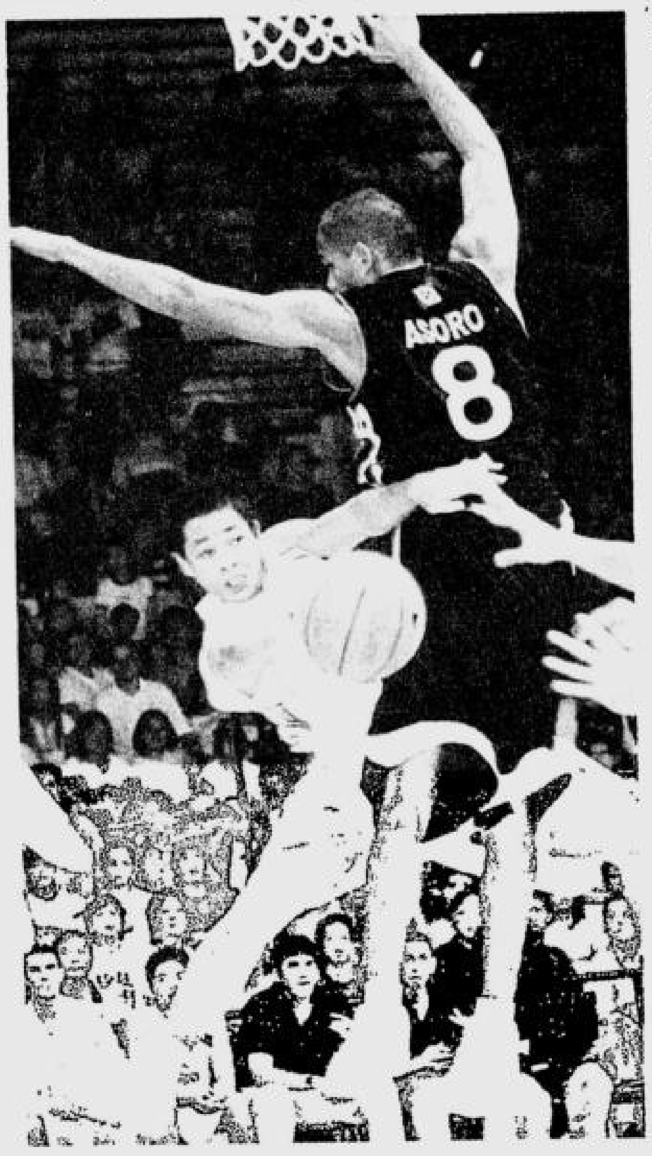
Seasoned point guard LA Tenorio also finished with 18 markers for the Eagles.

But Kramer faces a possible one-game suspension along with Bulldogs forward Edwin Asoro. Both players were ejected after engaging in a heated tussle in the fourth period.

It was the Eagles' most lopsided victory since routing Adamson, 97-67, in 2002. Yet the result didn't exactly please new Ateneo coach Norman Black.

"I'm not happy with our 38 turnovers," said Black. "We were very tentative. Hopefully, we will improve as the season goes on."

Ateneo joined La Salle and Adamson at 2-2, while NU and UST remained winless in four outings.



MACKY Escalona of Ateneo makes an acrobatic pass off Edwin Asoro (8) of National University during their game at the Big Dome yesterday.
AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Everything was in place for the Tamaraws, who took a 42-24 lead in the first half before the Tigers moved within 46-37 behind Warren de Guzman in the third period.

But Santos and Isip combined as the Tamaraws built an insurmountable 20-point cushion, 67-47, with four minutes remaining.

Tenorio and Kramer set the tone for an early Ateneo rout, giving the Eagles a double-digit edge, 22-9, in the first quarter.

The Eagles opened the second period with a 14-0 blast for a 27-point advantage, 41-14.

The Bulldogs shot a woeful 26.5 percent and were also outrebounded, 50-38.

In junior division play, the comebacking Baby Tamaraws blasted the Tiger Cubs, 73-53, while the Eaglets overwhelmed the Bullpups, 83-28.

The Baby Tams did not field a team from 1997 to last year.

The varsity scores:

First Game

ATENEO 83—Kramer 18, Tenorio 18, Intal 11, Laterre 8, Escalona 7, Reyes 6, Quimson 4, Barracoso 4, Nazareno 2, Arao 2, Al-Hussaini 2, Del Rosario 1, Aguilar 0.

NU 51—Asoro 20, Malcontento 9, Fernandez 9, D. Catamora 6, C. Catamora 5, Salvado 1, Lingao-Lingao 1, Tungkol 0, Malagueno 0, Jahnke 0, Flor 0, Estolano 0, Dela Cruz 0.

Quarters: 27-14, 54-25, 72-42, 83-51

Second Game

FEU 76—Santos 15, Chan 14, Isip 12, Rizada 9, Barcellano 9, Jo. Villanueva 6, Mangahas 5, Flores 2, Dela Cruz 2, Adolfo 2, Je. Villanueva 0, Saldua 0, Nietes 0, Fernandez 0.

UST 51—De Guzman 14, Pribhdas 12, Ababou 8, Dizon 7, Evangelista 5, Allera 5, Apil 3, Espiritu 2, Taylor 2, Cuan 2, Cortez 2, Crisostomo 0.

Quarters: 25-15, 42-24, 53-41, 76-62

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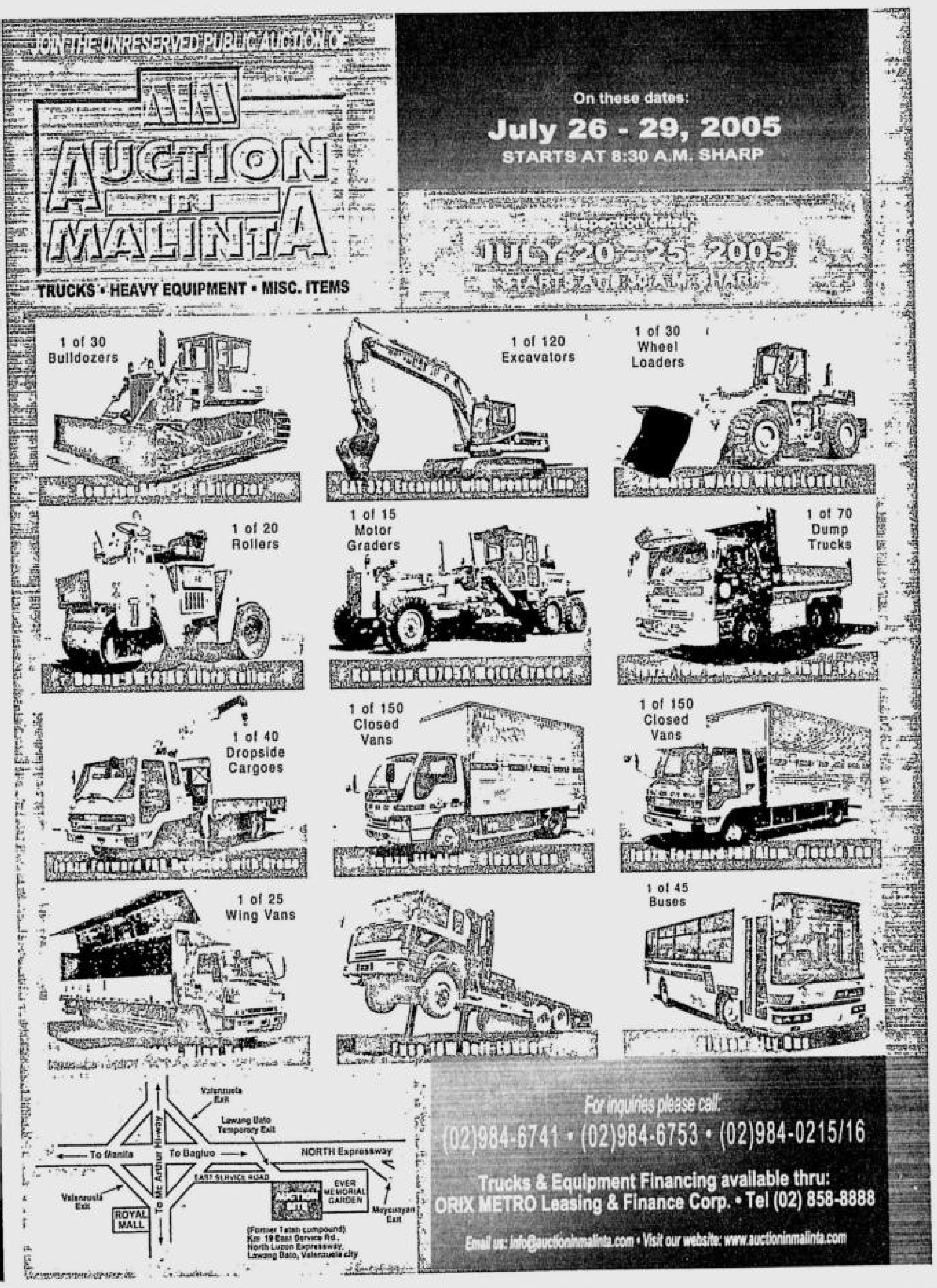
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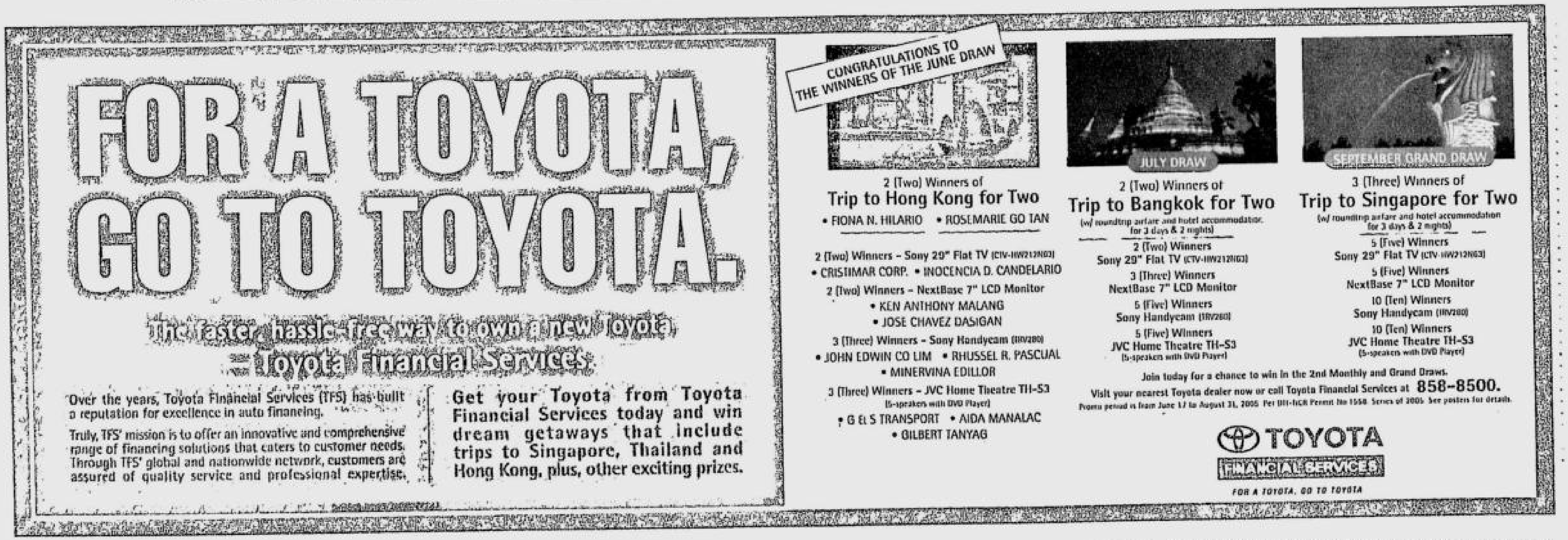
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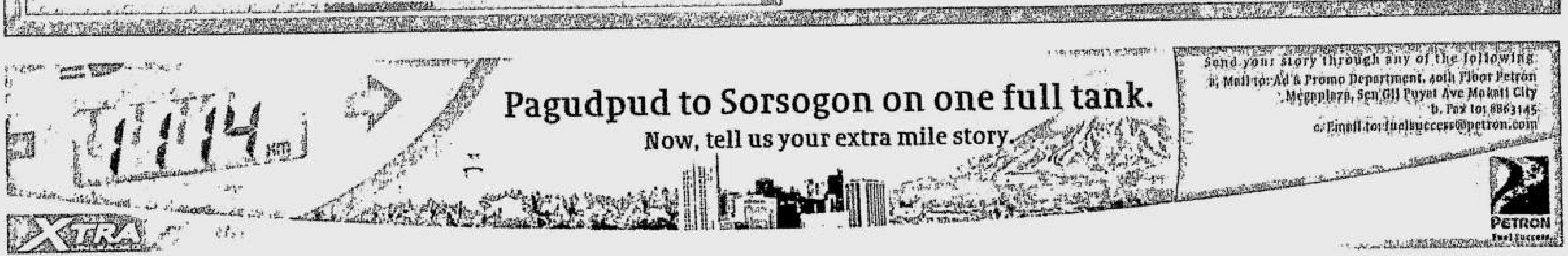
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4 teams eye same man to take over from Eala

By Musong R. Castillo

AT LEAST four PBA board representatives are talking separately to a prospective new commissioner to take over the reins from lawyer Noli Eala. Unknown to each one of them, however, they are eyeing the same man.

EALA: On hot seat

The representatives of Alaska, Sta. Lucia Realty, Red Bull and Talk 'N Text have separately approached one common candidate for the job just in case the board decides to let go of Eala.

The INQUIRER gathered this fact after talking to sources from the four teams, who asked that the name of their common candidate not be divulged at this time.

This development comes barely a month before the Annual Rookie Draft, the league's first official activity of the season, next month.

Of the four teams, the most interested in the candidate are Red Bull and Talk 'N Text, two squads whose officials have crossed swords many times with Eala.

The source at the TNT ballclub said that PLDT chief Manny Pangilinan had talked to this candidate even before Eala's name was floated as a possible replacement for the retiring Jun Bernardino at the end of the 2002 season.

Eala went on to clinch the top PBA job over former Shell board representative Rey Gamboa and former Turbo Chargers coach and Basketball Coaches Association of the Philippines president Chito Narvasa.

The same TNT source said governor Ricky Vargas is now exhausting every effort to finally get the nod of their candidate. Vargas has had at least two meetings with the candidate in recent weeks, while officials from Red Bull, Alaska and Sta. Lucia have had one each.

The Red Bull source said the meeting was actually exploratory talks meant to pick the candidate's brains.

It has been no secret that the PLDT franchise and Eala have been on unfriendly terms, especially over the handling of the case of Asi Taulava, who the commissioner suspend-

4 TEAMS/ A27

CHRISTABEL Martes proves her strength in the full marathon again. PDI PHOTO

MANILA MARATHON

Martes rips RP mark; Vence tops men's run

CHRISTABEL Martes broke her national record and Roy Vence was just as impressive as the two former Southeast Asian Games champions dominated yesterday's Third Manila Marathon.

The 25-year-old Martes showed no ill effects from a recent injury in setting a new RP mark of 2 hours 38 minutes and 44 seconds for the full 42.195-km race, ripping the 2:45:48 mark she established in the Hong Kong marathon in 2002.

Vence, who at 39 is retirement-bound, took advantage of the absence of arch rival Alan Ballester, the champion of the first two stagings, to rule the men's race in 2:22:18.

The twin victories recalled their marathon gold-medal double for the country in the 2001 SEA Games in Kuala Lumpur. Vence won P75,000 while Martes picked up P50,000.

Over 50,000 runners competed after the starter's gun was first fired by Manila Mayor Lito Atienza at the crack of dawn at the Rizal Park.

The organizing Manila Sports Council (Masco), headed by Ali Atienza, hoped that the record field in seven classes would make it to the Guinness Book of World Records.

Martes, who is trying to regain her old place in the RP team, set a torrid pace that saw her finishing by 25 minutes over Melinda Manahan, who clocked 3:03:28. Liza Delfin was third in 3:12:04.

At least, there was some competition for Vence who was hounded all the way by Cresencio Sabal, who checked in second at 2:25.36, and Reynaldo de los Reyes, third in 2:27.40.

"*Mas maganda siguro ang time ko kung nandyan si* Allan [Ballester], *pero pinaghandaan ko talaga ito* (I could have ran faster with Allan around, but I prepared hard for this)," said Vence, of Bogo, Cebu.

Ballester, who succeeded Vence as SEAG champion in 2003, was recovering from the flu. He was at hand, though, to give moral support to the participants of the event sponsored by Nike, Pagcor, PCSO, the Philippine Sports Commission, Gatorade, Milo, San Miguel Corp., SuperFerry, Tanduay, Intrasports and Concept Movers.

Ten-year-old Jean Pascal Halewyk shared the spotlight with the top guns, clocking 1:42:32 in completing the organizers' special 20-km run.

Winners in the other categories: Rene Herrera, men's 10K (29:14:15); Mercedita Manipol, women 10K (33:47.83); Allen Quisay, men's 5K (19:10); Nhea Ann Barcena, women (22:35); Efren Trinidad, men's 3K (14:39); Raynzon Sabordo, women (16:56); Jojo Caunceran, media men's 5K and Zenaida Dadacay in media women.

The rest of the men's top 10 in 42K—Adonis Lobaton (2:31:16), Luis Penid (2:33:35), Rolando Piamonte (2:35:23), Modesto Madulang (2:35:50), Ramon Millon (2:37:19), Rogelio Reli (2:37:23) and Mamerto Corpuz (2:39:43).

The rest of the women's top 10 in 42K—Christy Sevillano (3:13:47), Mila Paje (3:15:25), Hazel Madamba (3:21:29), Sealand Agana (3:24:17), Genevive de la Pena (3:41:49), Daisy Castillon (3:43:03) and Enate Sayrol (3:55:28).

Iligan rally overwhelms Parañaque five

ILIGAN CITY—The Iligan Crusaders leaned on the fourth-quarter explosion by Gerry Cavan to turn back the Parañaque Jets, 88-81, Saturday night in the 2005 Panasonic-NBC national basketball championship at the packed MSU-IIT gym here.

Cavan fueled a 15-0 run with a triple as the Crusaders wiped out 58-71 deficit and surged ahead, 73-71, with 4:52 left.

Then Cavan sandwiched teammate Joseph Roque's free throw with two more triples to give the Crusaders a 80-75 lead to the delight of the huge hometown crowd.

Roque, Dondon Mendoza and Jose de Guzman combined for 12 points during the rally which gave the Crusaders of Mayor Lawrence Cruz their fifth win in nine games.

Vice Mayor and actor/TV host Anjo Yllana's Jets dropped to 3-4.

The Jets, which is backed by KSK Food Products (Boy Bawang), looked headed to victory when they opened that 13-point margin after a 7-0 start in the fourth quarter.

But the Crusaders, backed by Krisland Commercial, Varf Belmonte, Gaisano-Iligan, Lian Hong, Soda Enterprises and ABU Caltex, had other things in mind.

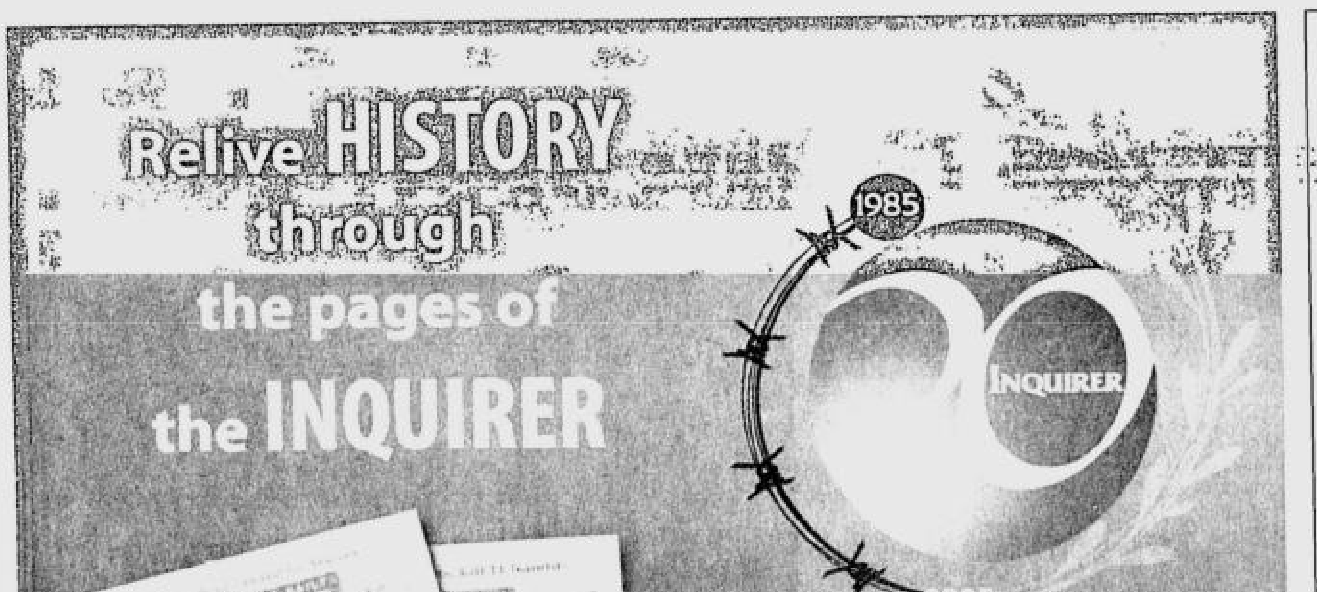
The Jets fought back on Nino Marquez's free throws to close in at 81-85 in the last 51 seconds. But that proved to be their last stand.

The scores:

ILIGAN 88—Fajardo 15, Cavan 13, Roque 13, De Guzman 13, Mendoza 9, Barbosa 9, Sagad 6, Ayodelle 5, Bagulo 3, Dy 2, Canoy 0, Reyes0, Torio 0, Faustino 0, Oliveros 0.

PARAÑAQUE 81—Basilides 23, Marquez 20, Rodriguez 9, Saquilayan 7, Lopez 6, Guiyab 4, Ruiz 4, Yambao 3, Tolentino 3, Buendia 2, Bognot 0, Ollado 0.

Quarters: 25-20, 47-48, 58-64, 88-81.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INQUIRER

It's back to school for RP pool

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

PLEASE don't call the last Philippine expedition to the 2005 World Pool Championship a failure.

It was a big tragedy.

In fact, the Philippine result in the championship was so disturbing it has led our billiards godfathers, led by Putch Puyat, to look for immediate cures.

The RP stint in Kaohsiung has also turned into an instant diagnosis.

There are those who would contest this, stating that new RP star Marlon Manalo took over where Bata Reyes and Django Bustamante had failed by zooming all the way to the semifinals, where he fell prey to a 16-year-young powerbreaking genius from Taiwan.

Fine. But the Philippines, after Alex Pagulayan's sensational crown finish last year, for the first time figured pitifully since the 1999 title win scored by Reyes in Cardiff, Wales.

* * *

As could be expected, Puyat & Co. were one in admitting the Philippines has fallen behind.

"We still have the veterans but we now need to concentrate on building our second layer of players," Puyat informed media during a post-mortem of the World Pool stint.

No, the RP team, led by Pagulayan did not go to Kaohsiung for a check-up.

Everything had looked well in place for RP billiards, which instantly rivaled basketball in popularity after Bata Reyes' sensational world title triumph.

But signs came out early that RP was headed for doom in the 2005 series after Bata Reyes himself failed to move on from the qualifiers. He was next followed by Django Bustamante who landed flat on the floor in only the first match of the loser-exits Final 64.

* * *

Manalo did appear sharp and skillful enough to save the RP campaign.

He proudly carried the RP colors and, despite an agonizing stand against former world champion Mika Immonen, managed to arrive at a semifinals standoff with Wu Chia-ching, 16.

With his experience, Manalo was tagged the favorite, but the remaining RP hope wilted under Wu's relentless offensive to bow out in fragments, 5-11.

Wu, who went on to win the 2005 title over another young Taiwanese, Kuo Po-cheng, was part of a group of emerging Taiwanese pool stars.

He said he took up pool only after compatriot Chao Fong-pang won the world crown in Cardiff in 2000.

All told, the 2005 world champion, who cried on the shoulders of his grandma during the award rites, was with a wave of young Taiwanese cue artists who wield a progressive and devastating brand of play.

* * *

Anyway, without admitting that the world-renowned Pinoy brand of pool has become obsolete, RP pool godfathers next made a timely announcement.

They said they are putting up a billiards academy.

That's as good as saying they are ready to go back to school, so to say, in order to return to the mainstream.

Actually, the academy may indeed help keep RP pool in pace with the vast progress enjoyed by other countries, led by Taipei, in the game.

At least they are doing something in the right direction.

But it cannot yet be said that the proposed Filipino academy could equal the well-structured program adopted by Taiwan.

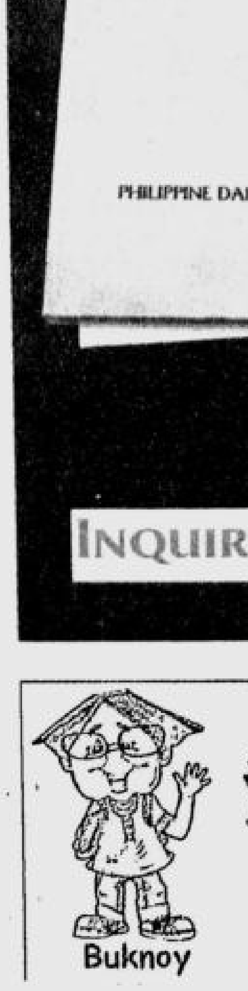
With no details for a deep national program that could train and develop players from all national levels, the proposed RP academy is, at best, only a band-aid solution.

There are greater ills being suffered by the game of pool here.

But these could be cured only with a no-nonsense solution, like lessening the crippling commercialism choking the development of the game.

To repeat, the game of pool must be differentiated from big business.

It must NOT be stressed that winning, as demonstrated by a distrusted national leader, is just a phone call away.



July 25, 2005 Today's info:

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Camarines Sur

07-18-05 Winner
Kelly Tueres
23 Lire St., Michael Homes,
Meycauayan, Bulacan

07-24-05 Answer: C
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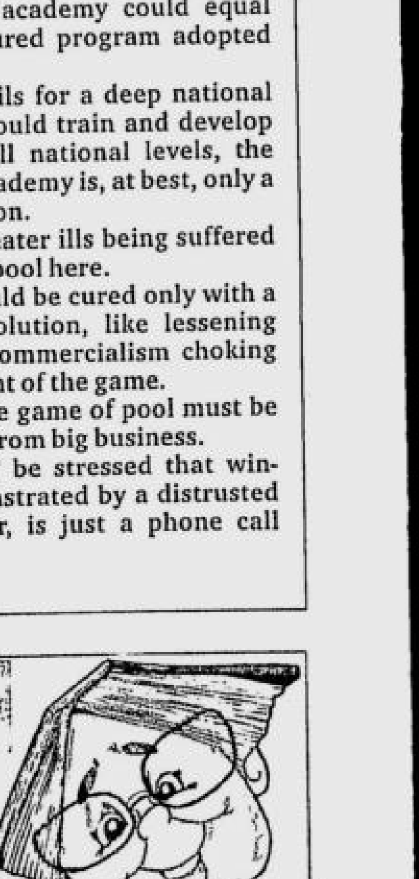
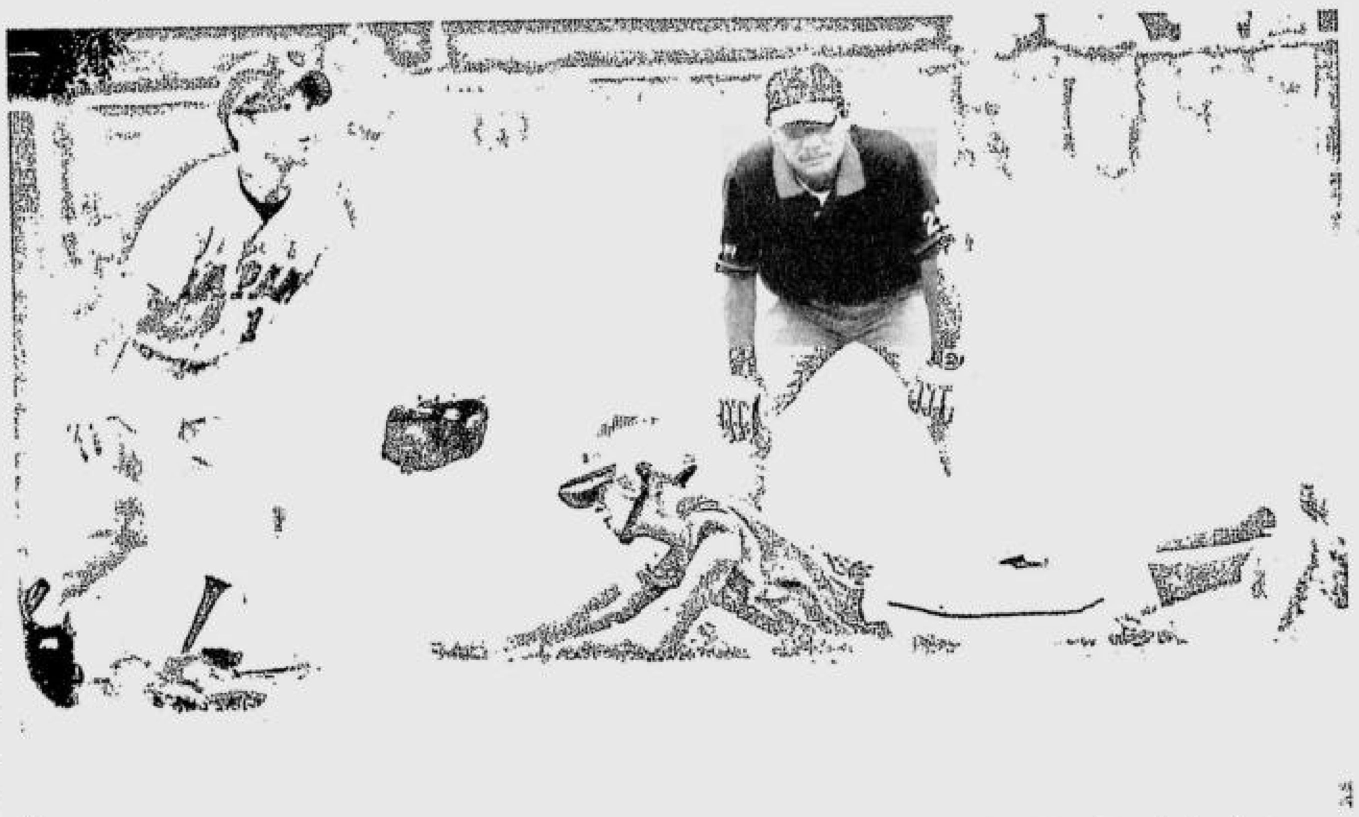


AS-PAC BRONCO MEET

Taiwan, RP duel for title

GAME TODAY (*Sto. Niño baseball ground*)
1 p.m.—Chinese Taipei vs Philippines



CHINESE-TAIPEI'S Lin Cheh-hao dives to steal second as Japan's Naoki Obi waits for the throw from homebase during the two squads' match yesterday at the Sto. Niño diamond in Marikina. The Taiwanese prevailed to forge a title match against the Filipinos.

POWERHOUSE Chinese-Taipei overwhelmed Japan with a barrage of hits to fashion out a 9-0 rout yesterday that underscored its title worth in the 2005 Asia Pacific Bronco Baseball Championship at the Sto. Niño Baseball ground in Marikina City.

Boasting a 15-3 romp over the Philippines the other day, the Taiwanese are heavy favorites when they meet the hosts again in their title showdown at 1 p.m. today.

The Filipinos, backstopped by this city's top clouters, clinched the other finals berth on the strength of their 7-2 win over the Japanese on Friday. The victory was RP's first in eight years against Japan, which was represented by players from Katsushika.

Marikina Mayor Maria Lourdes Fernando is expected to watch the title game to boost the morale of the Filipino batters.

A day after trampling the local bets, the Taiwanese buckled down to work early, unloading a five-hit, four-run attack in the first frame.

Lead-off batter Fan Cheh-ming belted a home run that sailed over the pink-colored fence at center field to set the tone for the rout.

Fan ended up with two hits, Lin Cheh-hao had three in four times at bat and Lin Ching-lin blasted a two-run double to lead the assault against the Japanese pitchers.

The Taiwanese needed just more than an hour to dispose of the Japanese, piling up a total of 14 hits against the Japanese's lone hit and two errors.

Chinese-Taipei also topped last year's edition of this event backed by Blue Wave Marquinton, Asia Brewery Absolute, Jollibee, Golden Vine Laboratory, Chikiting Patrol Foundation and Mirage Travels and Tours in Beijing, China.

"It's going to be our pitching against their hitting, *magandang laban ito* (it's a good fight)," said Rodolfo "Boy" Tingzon Jr., president of the organizing Philippine Tot Baseball Foundation.

The main man for RP will be Laurren Vispo, who pitched a five-hitter and struck out 13 batters in RP's opening-day triumph over Japan.

"*Siya talaga ang aasahan namin* (he is our chief weapon) against Chinese-Taipei," said RP coach Lito Ordonez, referring to the 12-year-old Vispo who studies in Barangay Sta. Elena but resides in Nangka.

PSA Forum tackles SEAG

PHILIPPINE Southeast Asian Games Organizing Committee (Philsoc) chair Roberto Pagdanganan makes a return appearance at the PSA Forum tomorrow at the main function room of the Pantalan Restaurant in Manila. Pagdanganan, expected to discuss the progress of the country's preparations for the coming 23rd SEA Games, is among several guests in the 10:30 a.m. session aired live over dzSR Sports Radio and sponsored by Red Bull, Circure, Supermax, Pagcor and Manila Mayor Lito Atienza. Also guesting are organizer Tisha Abundo of the Petron Ladies Beach Volleyball, as well as boxers Z Gorres, Ray "Boom Boom" Bautista and Deeden Kengkarun of Thailand, Cebu promoter Sammy Gello-ani and American agent Mike Kocz.

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St. Clare, STI join Naascu cage leaders

ST. CLARE College of Caloocan and STI posted similar hard-earned wins yesterday to gain a share of the lead in the fifth Naascu basketball tournament at the Cuneta Astrodome in Pasay City.

St. Clare downed University of Makati, 93-87, while STI shocked AMA Computer University, 68-64, to join defending champion University of Manila and New Era University in the early lead in the two-round eliminations.

Nino Songco scattered 30 points, including 12 in the fourth quarter, to power the Joel Dualan-mentored St. Clare Saints to the come-from-behind victory over the Wizards.

Bong Nograda and Jams Managran carried the fight for the Wizards with 23 and 21 points, respectively.

Equally impressive was STI, which came back strong to pull the rug from under AMA.

Marlon Martin and Dexter Micutuan scored 18 points apiece for the Olympians of coach Vic Ycasiano who exploded a 17-8 bomb in the third quarter to raze a 33-44 halftime deficit.

Meralco rules Sportshouse tilt

MERALCO outsteadied Celestron, 3-1, yesterday to rule the Classic division of the 2005 Sportshouse Corporate and Celebrity Cup Invitational Badminton tournament at the SM Megamall Activity Center.

Criselda Sarabia and Diana Barbo nailed Meralco's first win with a 15-2, 15-1 whipping of Beverly Banatlao and Jelica Molino in the first ladies' doubles, but Celestron quickly squared the duel when Renaldo Yasay and Joseph Cagitla took the first men's doubles over Danilo Ildefonso and Joel Noga, 15-12, 15-9.

Vangie Escall and Geralyn Solidum put Meralco ahead again by securing the second ladies' doubles at the expense of Shanlane Sta. Ana and Ginalyn Untivero, 15-10, 15-4.

Meralco clinched the duel when Boy Morelos and Allan Dilla outplayed Celestron's Raul de Vera and Eduardo Rodriguez, 15-12, 15-13.

Ruel Inciong of Manila Polo Club dethroned defending singles champion Edward Namoco, 15-11, 15-9, while Erwin Santos and Junior Chua pocketed the men's doubles title over Jonathan and Rommel Parone of The Zone, 15-7, 15-8, in the 2nd Mars Cup All-Trainers event.

4 teams eye . . .

From page A26

ed last year over doubts on his citizenship.

Red Bull officials have always questioned Eala's handling of erring referees.

Several names have also cropped up as a possible replacement for Eala after the PBA took an unprecedented tumble in gate attendance and television ratings.

Former senator and Ginebra San Miguel coach Robert Jaworski and former commissioner Rudy Salud, who authored the heady years of the league in the 1980s, are also being floated as candidates.

Incidentally, a board meeting has been scheduled this week to evaluate the performance of Eala, who first gained prominence as a member of the Vintage Enterprises television crew that covered the PBA from the late 1970s to 2001.

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'This one's for my kids'

Tearful Lance dedicates final stage win to his children

SAINT-ETIENNE, France—For one final time, Lance Armstrong fastened his feet on the pedals and faced the road ahead. He wasn't thinking about championships or his place in history, he said later, but about his three young children waiting at the finish.

This was the last time trial in his stellar career. He wanted them to remember it. He sprinted away, legs whirring, the Tour de France's yellow jersey on his back—and a fresh one waiting at the finish.

There, 55.5 kilometers (34.5 miles) later, tears welled in Armstrong's steel-blue eyes as he looked down from the winner's podium at 5-year-old Luke, and twins Grace and Isabelle, age 3, and slipped into yellow again.

Once more, he had extended his overall race lead. Now all that remains is for him to ride gently into Paris on Sunday, pick up his seventh consecutive—and last—Tour title and retire.

"To have three precious little people there hopefully remembering one last yellow jersey was a very strong incentive for me," Armstrong said. "I wanted to ride in today and ride into Paris in yellow for them, for the last image of their father as a sportsman to be that of a champion."

Armstrong beat Jan Ullrich, his long-suffering but most feared rival, by 23 seconds in the clock-race, crowning another dominant Tour by giving himself the individual stage win he had lacked this year until now.

Riding with an aerodynamic bike, helmet and suit to reduce wind drag and save seconds, Armstrong made easy work of the winding, hilly and crowd-lined route that looped north of Saint-Etienne in central France.

As race leader, Armstrong set out last of the 155 riders left after three weeks of racing across France and its mountains. On July 2, 189 riders had taken the start.

At the first time-check, Armstrong trailed Ivan Basso of Italy. But he led by the second and stayed ahead from that point.

Armstrong's time was 1 hour, 11 minutes and 46 seconds, for an average speed of 46.4 kph (28.8 mph). The stage win was the 22nd of Armstrong's career. Eleven of those were time trials. Armstrong also won three team trials with his support riders—including this year's.

"It's nice to finish your career on a high note," he said. "As a sportsman, I wanted to go out on top." *AP*

AS in the past six stagings of the Tour de France, Lance Armstrong leaves the field with who is the No. 1 cyclist in the famed Tour.

Alonso tops German GP; Raikkonen foiled again

HOCKENHEIM, Germany—Formula One leader Fernando Alonso won the German Grand Prix for Renault on Sunday on an agonizing afternoon for McLaren's title rival Kimi Raikkonen.

While the 23-year-old Spaniard celebrated his sixth win of the season, moving a massive 36 points clear in the championship with eight rounds remaining, Raikkonen again suffered the heartbreak of retiring while leading.

The Finn, thwarted in similar fashion in the San Marino Grand Prix in April, left the circuit without talking to reporters.

Colombian teammate Juan Pablo Montoya redeemed his qualifying mistake by taking second place with a storming drive from the back of the grid.

Briton Jenson Button was third for BAR with Renault's Giancarlo Fisichella fourth after passing Ferrari's seven-time world champion Michael Schumacher, an easy winner at Hockenheim last year, on the penultimate lap.

Schumacher was fifth, with his younger brother Ralf sixth for Toyota. Alonso now has 87 points, Raikkonen 51. *Reuters*

Armstrong leaves

ULLRICH AFP

SAINT-ETIENNE, France—When Jan Ullrich and Lance Armstrong roll into Paris on Sunday, they will both have mounted the Champs-Elysees podium seven times. The difference being Ullrich will have won six fewer Tour de France titles.

Armstrong won the penultimate stage 55.5-kilometer (34.5-mile) time trial in Saint-Etienne on Saturday. Ullrich finished 23 seconds behind, once again

"I gave everyt enough against L I'm happy to be o ish this Tour in go crashes I had."

Ullrich has won since has finished r to Armstrong. Las

Real Spicy cops 3rd

By Edwin Villanueva
Contributor

WHEN Real Spicy lost in the first two legs of the 2005 Triple Crown, one of the major adjustments owner-breeder Hermie Esguerra made was to tap a replacement jockey for his prized galloper.

The gamble paid off handsomely as Real Spicy saved his biggest strides for the last leg to win the Horseman's Cup under the masterful guidance of veteran Antonio Alcasid Jr. yesterday at the San Lazaro Leisure Park.

"Thanks, we finally scored in the series," said a jubilant Esguerra. "Real Spicy probably ran his best race today and I salute Oyet (Alcasid) for that magnificent ride."

The prominent sportsman-businessman also had kind words for Real Spicy's regular rider Pat Dilema, whom Alcasid subbed for after 22 straight rides and masterminding the colt's previous six major wins.

"I'm also grateful to Patty (Dilema) because we learned a lot from his previous rides and he told us valuable tips on how to handle Real Spicy," added Esguerra, whose entry Euro Bucks set up the tone of Real Spicy's glorious victory by ruling the Hopeful Stakes earlier.

Real Spicy, a son of former US Kentucky Derby and Preakness Stakes winner Real Quiet out of Spicy Tale, blasted off from the outermost eighth box but quickly stuck like a sun-drenched T-shirt to Speed Advantage before going for the kill at the far turn.

"I knew we had it when we passed Speed Advantage," said the 41-year-old Alcasid, in

Gullas is to Philippin

WHAT ails Philippine basketball? An what should be done about this? I sa leaders of the sport should heed thes words of wisdom from Cebu Rep. Eduardo Gullas, who once said that baske ball is not making any progress in th country because it is being "pulled fron so many directions by so many disparat interests, however good-intentioned."

Said he: "So many want the best fo basketball, but certainly not all thos who wish the best will be able to do wh is best for the sport."

In an interview during the Nationa Basketball Hall of Fame ceremony at th Manila Peninsula Hotel a few years ag the Cebu solon told this corner, "Wha the ailing sport needs at present are honest-to-goodness leaders who are not aft money nor after trips aboard," stressin that "in the past the Philippines wa Asia's basketball kingpin. Our best players humbled the best of other nation but the glory that was is now gone."

Continuing, he said, "Basketball is truly the sport closest to my heart and to th hearts of millions of Filipinos across generations. We can dare say that there virtually no place in this country that th basketball fever has not touched."

Recalling the good old days, Gull said, "In my salad days before public service lured and waylaid me, I served a the basketball coach of the University o the Visayas. Under my stewardship, th UV Green Lancers won the national intercollegiate championship against th Ateneo Blue Eagles in 1957."

Mainly because of that sterling feat o a lightly regarded provincial team bea ing highly favored Manila-based quintets, Gullas was voted "Coach of th Year" by the Philippine Sportswriters A sociation and, together with his victori ous UV Lancers, landed on the cover o the Philippine Free Press magazine.

Gullas was also nominated along wit the late Tito Eduque to coach the Philippine team to the 1958 Asian Games i Tokyo, but the latter got the coveted po sition. The team later won the gol medal. Overall, the Filipino athletes wh took part in the Tokyo Asiad went hom with nine gold, 19 silver and 20 bronz medals.

However, there was an alarming de cline in the number of gold medals wo in subsequent Asian Games, with th

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a view of his back and with no doubt as to

AFP

Rookie romps off with Evian crown

EVIAN, France—American teenager Paula Creamer's final round of 1-under 71 Saturday saw her win the Evian Masters by eight shots.

The 18-year-old from Mountain View, California, finished at 15-under 273 to dominate the 78-woman field and claim the second title of her rookie season.

Jennifer Rosales shot a 72 and finished 17 shots behind. The Filipina took home $26,720 to hike her season earnings to $359,028.

Tied for second were 15-year-old amateur Michelle Wie and Mexico's Lorena Ochoa. Canada's Lorrie Kane took fourth place at 282.

"It's a good feeling with the leaderboard getting younger and younger," Creamer said. "I've just had a great week. Just the strength of this field and the Evian ensemble makes it huge for me to win here. It means an awful lot."

Creamer started the final round with a seven-shot lead and no one got closer than five shots Saturday. Annika Sorenstam made no impression, shooting a 75 to finish twelve shots back in 12th position at 285.

The American started with a bogey but produced eleven pars and a birdie over her last twelve holes.

"I just couldn't quite believe I was seven shots ahead of such a great field," Creamer said. "I compare myself to the No. 1 player in the world, which is Annika Sorenstam, and I'm not quite there yet."

Wie had five birdies and one bogey in her final-round 68. *AP*

s Ullrich forever in his shadow

in Armstrong's shadow.

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ance," Ullrich said. "But

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nly one title, in 1997, and

nner-up five times—three

year's fourth-place finish was his only year off the podium.

Ullrich's record is impressive enough, but it suggests the powerful German could have done so much more. Armstrong has often called him his most dangerous rival.

But doubts over his fitness, and a sometimes nonchalant attitude, mean he has never really challenged Armstrong—aside from 2003, when he placed just 61 seconds behind.

"Jan is a special, special guy to me," Armstrong said. "I truly believe that Jan can win the Tour again, not just once but more than once."

"Clearly he has to show up to the event in a little better shape," Armstrong said. "Because what you see toward the end of the event is the guy who can win the race. What happens in the first half of the race is where he loses the race." *AP*

leg of 'TC'

near tears after winning his very first TC leg.

The Andrew Sanchez-conditioned Real Spicy, second and third in the Cojuangco Cup and Ongpin Cup, respectively, finished the 2,000-meter race four lengths away from Speed Advantage and captured the P1 million first prize. Winning time was 2:05.5 (25-24-26-25-25.5).

Wind Runner arrived third followed by Real Spicy's coupled bet Ocean Deep, Thywillbedone, D As in Dixie and In Command.

Star jockey Jesse Guce skippered the Putch Puyat-bred Euro Bucks, a 3-year bay filly by Account of Grace out of Leveret, to the win worth P300,000.

Real Spicy gained sales of P379,387 out of P1,235,297, with Speed Advantage luring P453,696. Thywillbedone attracted P281,014 as the third pick.

no stranger he basketball

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

Philippines winning the Asiad basketball gold for the last time in the Jakarta Games in 1962. The total RP gold medal harvest also dropped to seven.

On the sad state of basketball, Gullas, who is tipped to become the first president of the POC-backed Philippine Basketball Federation, said there's a need for the implementation of a real grassroots development program because "we still have the finest coaches and trainers in this part of the world."

***

SPECIAL ATHLETES NEED HELP. When the second session of the 13th Congress opens today, members of both Houses should consider the plight of the differently-abled athletes.

For the sake of equity and fairness, I appeal to them to file a bill rewarding medal winners of international events for the differently-abled such as the Special Olympics and the Paralympics similar to Republic Act 9064 which grants hefty cash rewards and other incentives to the medal feats of normal athletes.

Although the Special Olympics (founded by Eunice Kennedy Shriver in 1968) and the Paralympics (organized by Sir Ludwig Guttman in London in 1948 as the International Wheelchair Games) do not get the breathless media coverage of the Olympics proper, these gritty athletes with disability deserve better treatment from the government because they are the true Olympians. As I have said time and again, sports should be non-discriminatory.

Avid supporters of these special athletes (one of them is my longtime friend Gani Zulueta) always find themselves amazed at the athletes' grit and exceptional ability to push the limits of human endurance.

Incidentally, the Philippines will be hosting a Paralympic Games later this year to coincide with the 2005 Southeast Asian Games on Nov. 27-Dec. 5.

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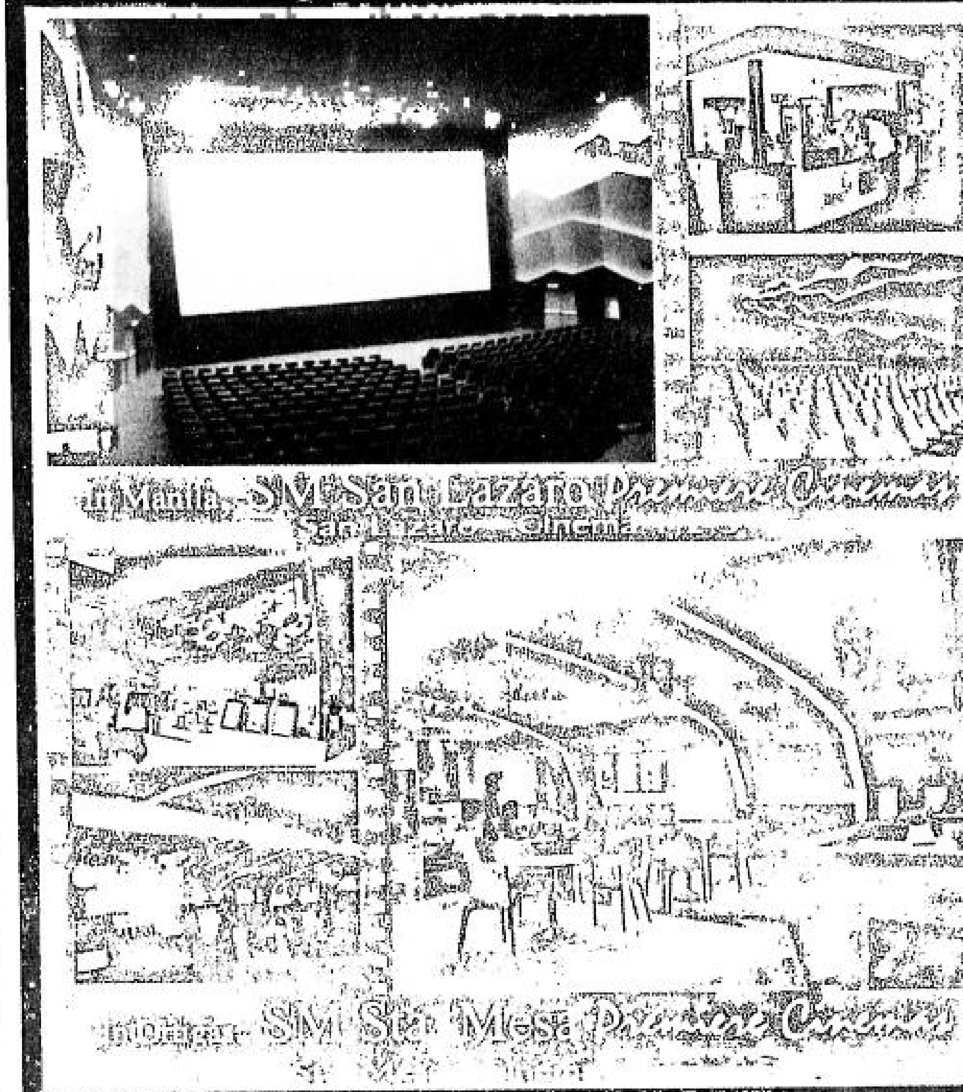

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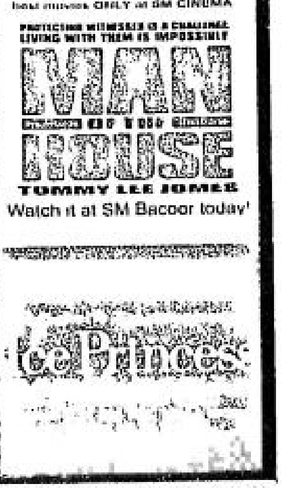

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6 HERBIE: FULLY LOADED
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7 MONSTER-IN-LAW
12:25 2:50 5:15 7:40 10:00

8 BHAGAT SINGH 1:00MF / 7:30LMF
YAADEIN 4:00MF

9 IF ONLY
12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00

10 WAR OF THE WORLDS
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12

1 THE ISLAND 12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

2 EVIL DEAD
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00

3 HERBIE: FULLY LOADED
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00

4 SHANGHAI LILY
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 - 10:00

5 IF ONLY
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00

6 FANTASTIC FOUR
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

7 NEW POLICE STORY
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

METRO EAST 682-8193, 682-8199

1 IF ONLY
2:10 4:30 6:50 9:10

2 HERBIE: FULLY LOADED
1:40 4:00 6:20 9:00

3 EVIL DEAD
12:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 9:00

4 WAR OF THE WORLDS
12:00 2:15 4:30 6:45 9:00

5 CAMPUS GHOST STORIES
1:40 4:00 6:20 9:00

6 FANTASTIC FOUR
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

7 THE ISLAND
1:00 4:00 7:00 10:00

8 NEW POLICE STORY
1:10 3:40 6:20 9:00

CITISQUARE MALABON 288-2574

1 RING OF THE NIBELUNGS
2 THE ISLAND
3 FANTASTIC FOUR
4 IN GOOD COMPANY

PIONEER 687-5378

1 THE ISLAND
2 FANTASTIC FOUR
3 HERBIE: FULLY LOADED
4 IF ONLY

India's Most Fearless Patriot, a Hero who became a Legend

The Legend of
BHAGAT SINGH

Ajay Devgan, Sushant Singh, Santosh, Amrita Rao

The Legend of Bhagat Singh is a drama about the legendary Indian freedom fighter. Singh (Ajay Devgan sees first-hand British atrocities performed on his people. He throws off convention like an arranged marriage and becomes an important figure in the fight for Indian independence. He is eventually executed for his revolutionary actions. This is one of five films released within eighteen months of each other that look at the life of Bhagat Singh.

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1 THE ISLAND
2 CREEP
3 WAR OF THE WORLDS
4 HERBIE: FULLY LOADED
5 FANTASTIC FOUR

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1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 THE ISLAND
3 MONSTER-IN-LAW
4 THE HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE TO THE GALAXY

DASMARIÑAS (046) 852-2125 (046) 416-4332

1 NEW POLICE STORY
2 CREEP
3 FANTASTIC FOUR
4 THE ISLAND

ANGELES (045) 892-2348

1 THE ISLAND
2 NEW POLICE STORY
3 SIN CITY
4 FANTASTIC FOUR

IMUS (046) 875-3838 (046) 471-8188

1 HERBIE: FULLY LOADED
2 FANTASTIC FOUR
3 NEW POLICE STORY
4 THE ISLAND

STARMILLS (045) 875-1927 (045) 961-6270

1 NEW POLICE STORY
2 CAMPUS GHOST STORY
3 CREEP
4 WAR OF THE WORLDS
5 FANTASTIC FOUR
6 THE ISLAND

BACOLOD (034) 441-0453 (034) 441-0459

1 THE ISLAND
2 FANTASTIC FOUR
3 BIRTH
4 SIN CITY
5 WAR OF THE WORLDS
6 CREEP

ILOILO (033) 336-8070

1 THE ISLAND
2 MONSTER-IN-LAW
3 WAR OF THE WORLDS
4 FANTASTIC FOUR

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GREENBELT 1 Onstage AYALA CENTER

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Directed by Bart Guingona & Choreographed by Douglas Nieras
July 28,2005

Ayala MUSEUM

Registration for Art Workshops now on-going at Ayala Museum
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Online registration at www.ayalamuseum.org

AYALA CINEMAS

Reserve your seats by texting SURESEATS GB3 or SURESEATS G4 to 2333 (Globe) or 211 (Smart) or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations.

Movie schedules may change without prior notice. For verification call 729 7777

G1	1 EVIL DEAD	2 THE ISLAND	3 THE NEW POLICE STORY	4 FANTASTIC 4
G4	1 IF ONLY	2 FANTASTIC 4	3 THX THE ISLAND 11 10, 2 00, 4 50, 7 40, 10 30 GUARANTEED SEATS	
	4 WAR OF THE WORLDS	5 HERBIE: FULLY LOADED	6 THE ISLAND	7 THE ASSASSINATION OF RICHARD NIXON
GB1	1 IF ONLY 1:05, 3:15, 5:25, 7:35, 9:45	2 THE ISLAND 1:15, 4:00, 6:45,9:30		
GB3	1 THX THE ISLAND 12 30 3 15 6 00 8 45 10 20 GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX THE ISLAND 2 15, 5 00, 7 45, 11 30 GUARANTEED SEATS		
	3 HERBIE: FULLY LOADED 1 50, 4 00, 6 10, 8 20, 11 30 GUARANTEED SEATS	4 IF ONLY 2:35 4 45 6 55 9 05 11 15 GUARANTEED SEATS	5 FANTASTIC 4 1 45, 4 00, 6 15, 8 30 10 45 GUARANTEED SEATS	
ATC	1 THX THE ISLAND	2 FANTASTIC 4		
	3 IF ONLY	4 THE ISLAND	5 HERBIE: FULLY LOADED	
ACC	1 THE ISLAND	2 HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE TO THE GALAXY	3 ALONE IN THE DARK	4 FANTASTIC 4

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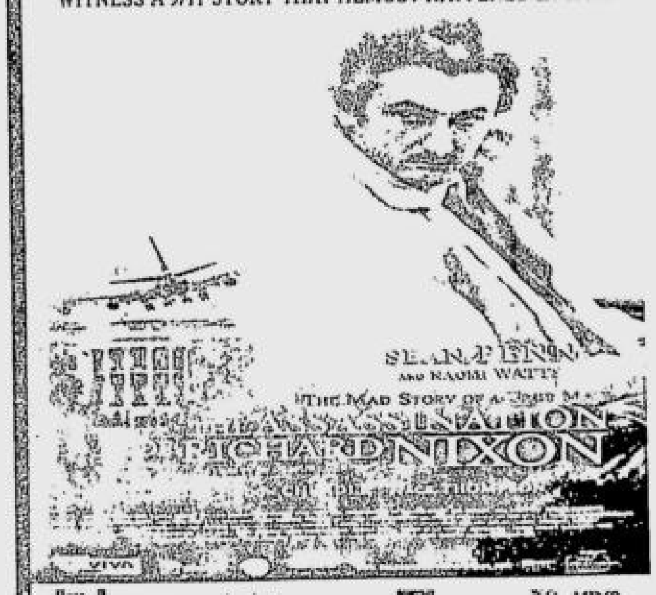
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THE ASSASSINATION OF RICHARD NIXON
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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. A2-354, Series of 2005

Barcelo picks up No. 5 in Bicol Milo race

NAGA CITY—Veteran Neri Barcelo captured his fifth regional title while Joanne Manangat ended the two-year reign of Luisa Raterta in the 29th National Milo Marathon Bicol elimination race yesterday.

The 38-year-old Barcelo, who won three of his titles in Iloilo City, topped the 21-K race that ended at the Quezon Park here with a time of one hour, 16 minutes and 55 seconds.

"I was with the lead pack at the start, then I left them 100 meters before the turning point," said Barcelo in Bicolano.

Barcelo, from Goa, Camarines Sur, also won here in 2001 but placed second to Alvin Canada in 2002 and 2004.

Placing second was Ernie Payong (1:17:31) with Henry Janer landing third (1:19:48).

Canada of the Philippine Army finished in eighth place this time, blaming lack of training for his poor showing.

The 25-year-old Canada had a slow time of 1:22:54 in yesterday's race held in partnership with Bayview Park Manila Hotel, Cebu Pacific, Smart Kid, Adidas, Department of Tourism, Addict Mobile Prepaid and Powerbar.

Manangat won the women's race in 1:36:35 but her first title came without a fight.

Raterta, who won in 2003 and 2004, was not feeling well yesterday but forced herself to run the 21-K race just to qualify for the 2005 National Finals slated Oct. 9 in Metro Manila.

The twin sister of 2003 National Milo Marathon champion Liza Yambao, Raterta succeeded in her mission by placing second in 1:46:42.

Anna Liza Vargas salvaged third in 1:53:34.

The 20-year-old Manangat, who placed second to Raterta last year, pulled away after 5 km and was never headed.

The top three finishers in the men's and women's races pocketed cash purses of P10,000, P6,000 and P4,000, respectively, aside from making it to the national finals.

2
2534
1402
8566

NERI Barcelo (center), Ernie Payong (second from left) and Henry Janer raise their trophies flanked by Naga City Mayor Jesse Robredo (left) and Milo Events sports executive Pat Goc-ong.

Topping the men's 5-K race were Saudimar Diaz (17:16), Antonio Nulial (17:17) and Franklin Penalosa (17:32). Prevailing in the distaff side were Vanessa Baliquia (21:59), Marilou Abio (24:17) and Robinna May Evangelis (24:30).

Miguel Gonzales and Janice Abais ruled the 6-9 age group and Jhomar Postrado and Rea Pica won in the 10-12 category of the 3K Kiddies run.

A total of 4,219 runners answered the starting gun fired by Naga City Mayor Jesse Robredo.

The country's biggest and longest-running foot race resumes next week with its Region XI qualifying in Davao City.

SPORTSWATCH

70 fights in Makati derby

PROMINENT cockers and breeders from Metro Manila see action today in a special 3-cock derby at the Makati Coliseum. The WTJ Group, to be assisted by promoters Lito Orillaza, Rudy Salud and William Co of Winning Jobo Sports and Gaming Corp, will host the event. Expected to field their ace gamebirds are Pepito Ngo, Boy Javier, Boyet Medina, Nelson Salvanera, Maj. Nunez, Renato Shio, Gerry Sunga, Mon Torres, Aba Badiola, Kags Paliza, Lito Alcantara, B. Layag, Terry Santos, Philip Chiongbian, Bobbit Ples, Efren Canlas, Boy de Roca, Pete Ison, Toto Lacson, William Co, Wilmer Ting, Matt Bitanga, Jun Pascual, Emil Chua, Boy Corcuera, Butchoy Olano and Cel Bulawin. For inquiries, call 896-3545, 895-6475 or 895-6453. Next up at the Makati venue is the Daytime 4-Cock Derby on Aug. 3 with Kags Paliza and Aba Badiola as hosts. The entry fee is P6,600 for a guaranteed prize of P500,000.

Airport Casino 5-cocker on

COCKFIGHTING action resumes at the Airport Casino in Sucat, Parañaque, today with a big five-cock derby that stakes P500,000. The ABP entry of Laguna cocker Manny Santos topped the P1-million No Entry Fee 6-Cock Derby" as derbies opened at the venue last month. Derby hosts Boy Infante and Boyet Luna, assisted by promoter Al Dominguez, said at least 100 quality fights are expected in today's hackfights. Admission price is P600, but each paying patron will get a P300 bonus bet from Airport Casino and a P100 meal coupon. All participants will get P2,000 bonus bet. For inquiries, call 827 -8707 and 788 -5909.

Spalding unveils Gladiator

SPALDING-HUFFY, through its exclusive Philippine distributor Proline Sports Center, is launching its latest backboard model, the top-of-the line Gladiator which comes in 52-inch or 44-inch steel framed, see-through acrylic backboards for that truly NBA basketball experience right outside your doorstep. Basketball players can practice their highlight film dunks all day and night with the Gladiator's heavy-duty, solid steel Slam Jam breakaway rim. The Gladiator's height can be adjusted with just a pull of a lever. It is equipped with Spalding's ExactaHeight lift system which can adjust the rim height between 7.5 feet and 10 feet. The ExactaHeight has a spring counter balance design and a pin mechanism that provides accurate adjustment in 6-inch increments and prevents movement during play. The Gladiator comes in a three-piece pole system for easy assembly and storability angled at 20 degrees for maximum playability. The Spalding-Huffy backboards are ideal for the Spalding NBA official basketballs that are also sold in all Proline stores.

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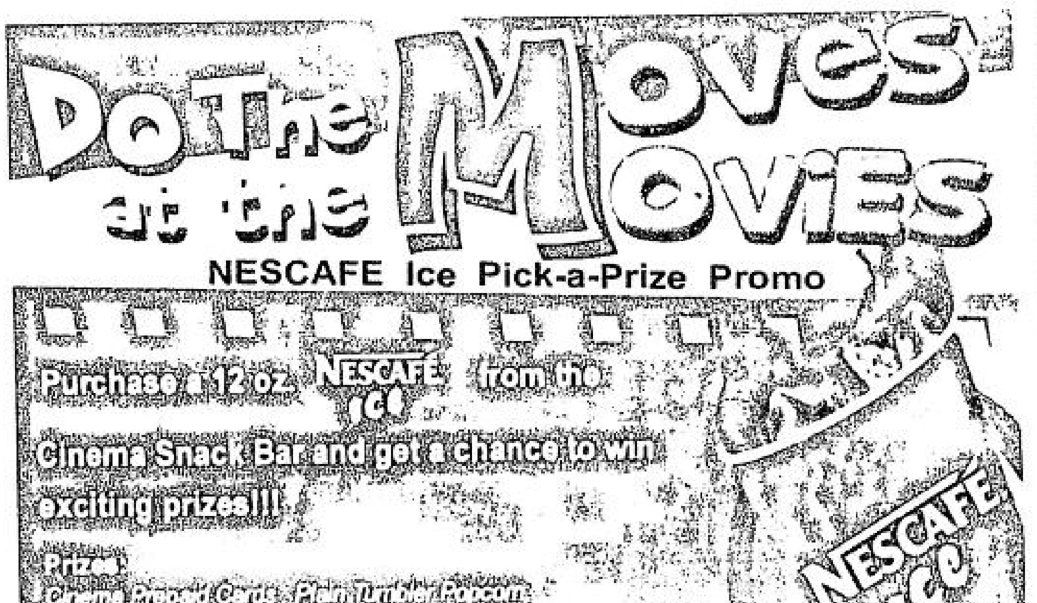
Do The Moves at the Movies
NESCAFE Ice Pick-a-Prize Promo
Purchase a 12 oz. NESCAFE ice from the Cinema Snack Bar and get a chance to win exciting prizes!!!
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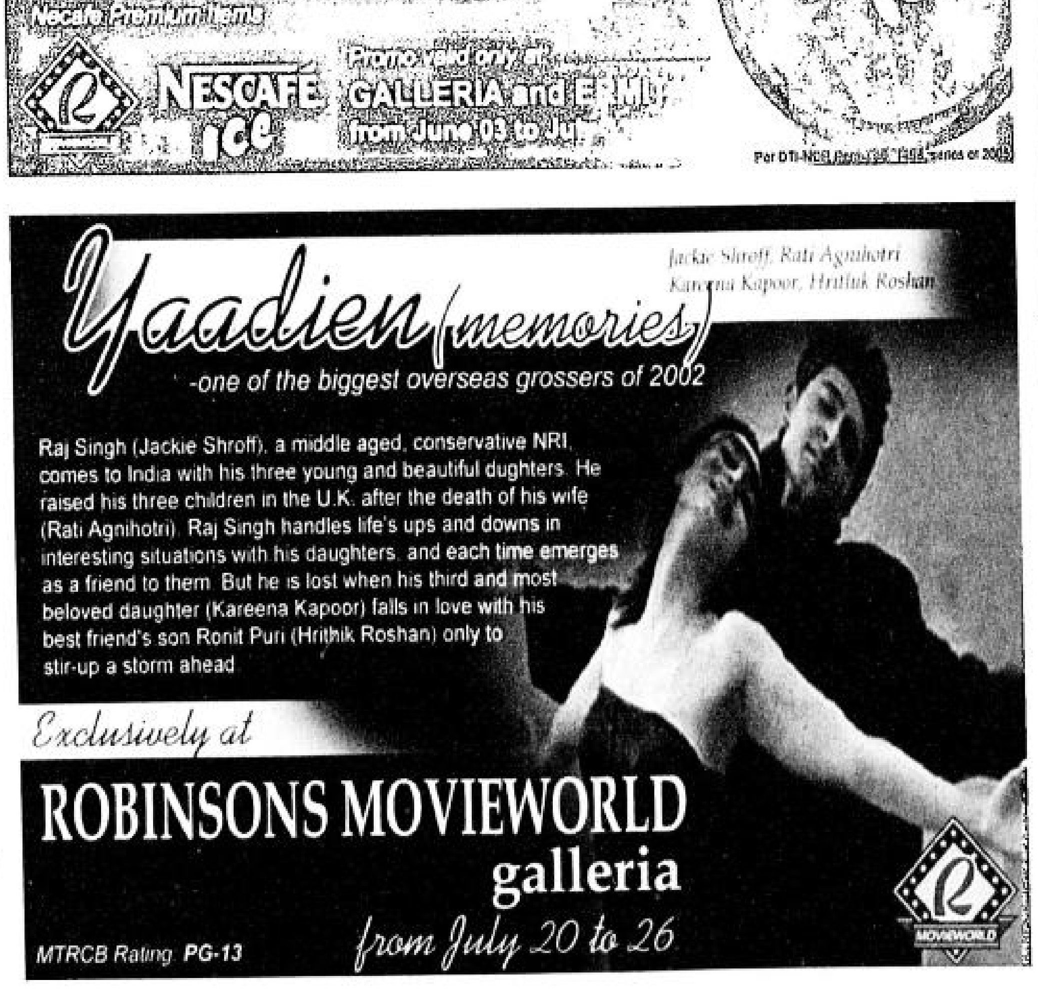
Jackie Shroff, Rati Agnihotri
Kareena Kapoor, Hrithik Roshan
Yaadien (memories)
-one of the biggest overseas grossers of 2002
Raj Singh (Jackie Shroff), a middle aged, conservative NRI, comes to India with his three young and beautiful dughters. He raised his three children in the U.K. after the death of his wife (Rati Agnihotri). Raj Singh handles life's ups and downs in interesting situations with his daughters, and each time emerges as a friend to them. But he is lost when his third and most beloved daughter (Kareena Kapoor) falls in love with his best friend's son Ronit Puri (Hrithik Roshan) only to stir-up a storm ahead
Exclusively at
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SECOND WEEK
FROM THE MAKERS OF "THE RING", COMES A NEW HORROR PHENOMENON
CAMPUS GHOST STORIES
Starring KOJI MATSUO YUICHI MATSUO HITOMI MIWA ASUMI MIWA
Directed by TOSHIHARU IKEDA
THIS SEMESTER, SOME ANGRY SOULS ARE ALSO ENROLLED...PAPASOK KA BA SA HAUNTED SCHOOL?

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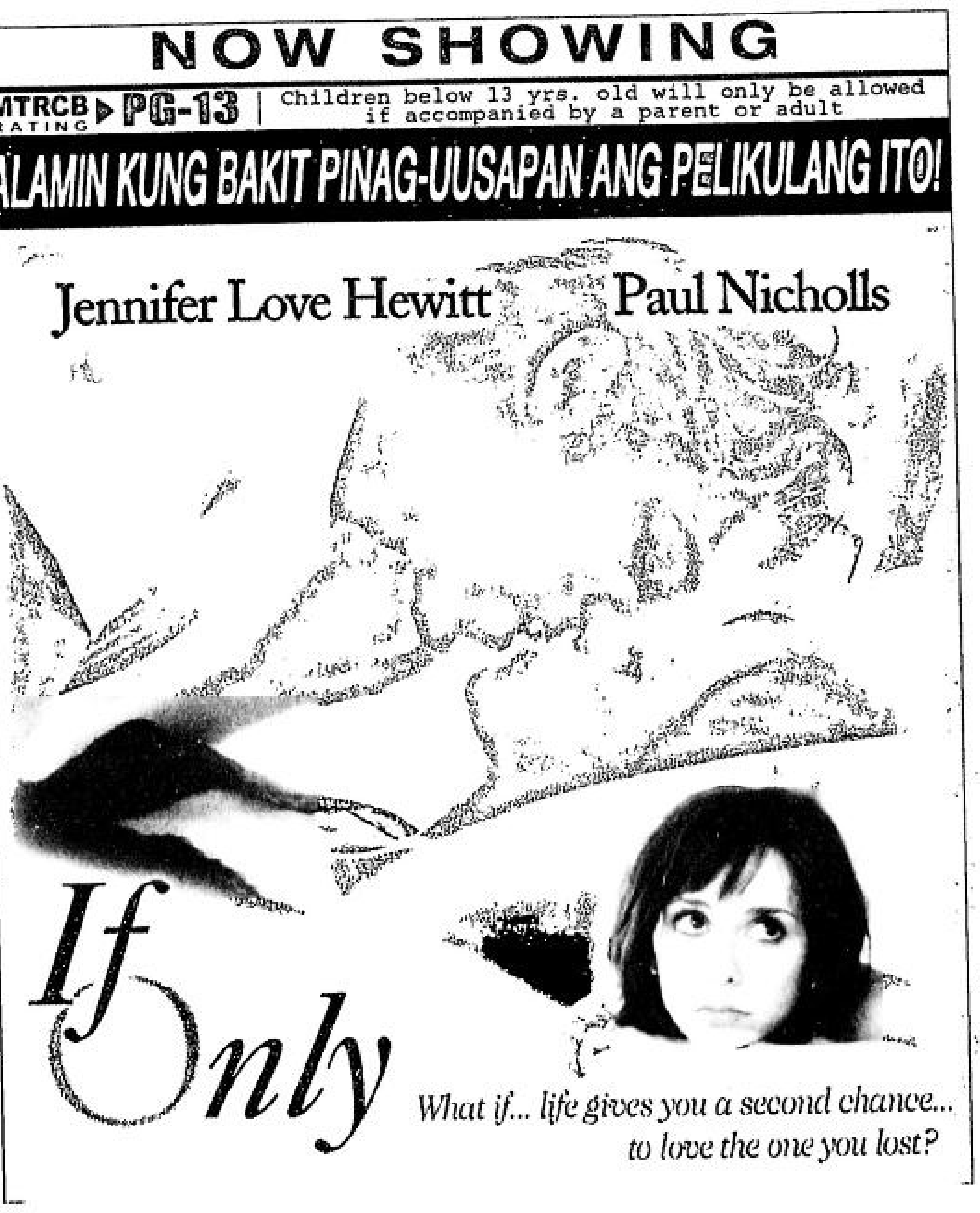
NOW SHOWING
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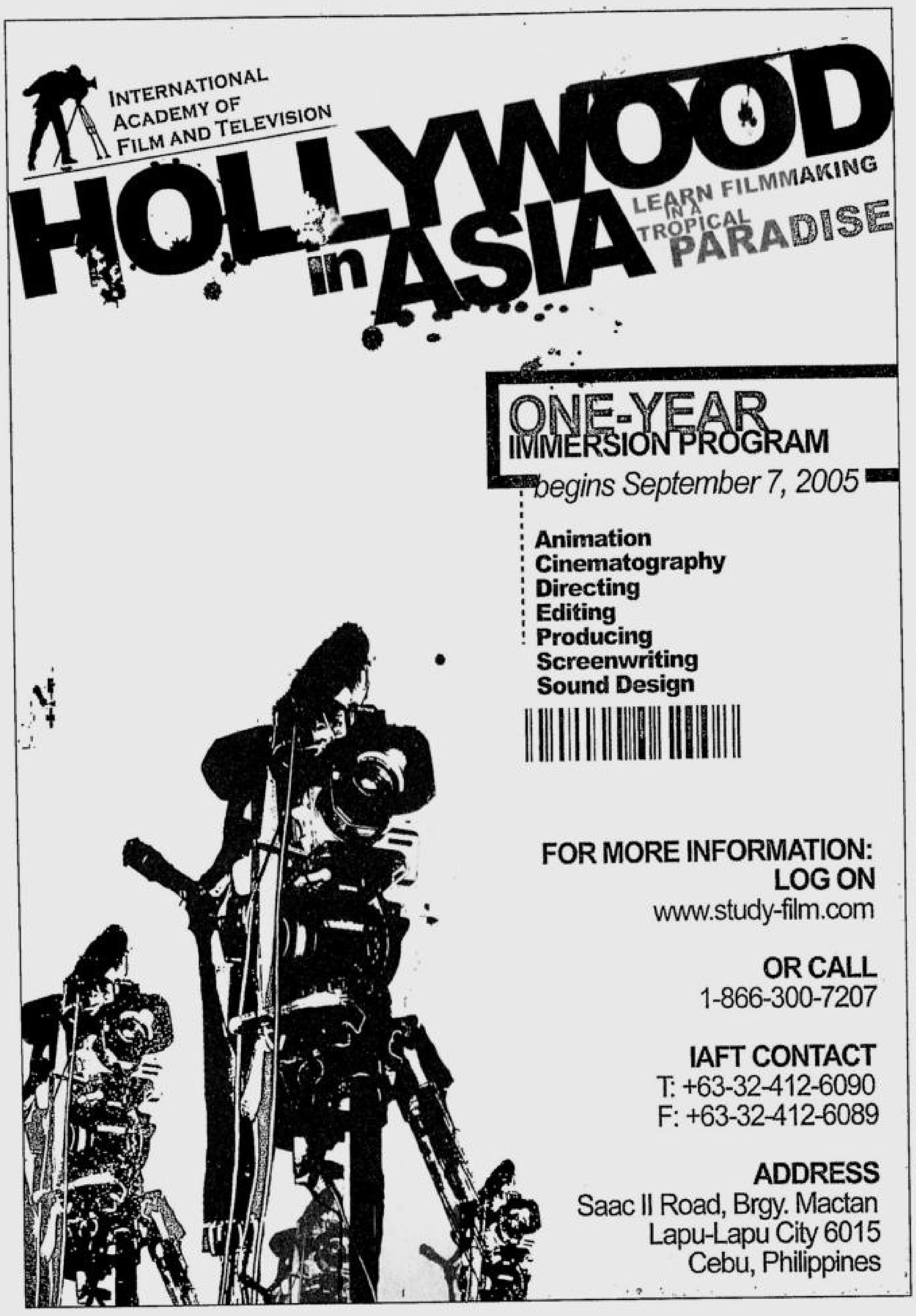
ALAMIN KUNG BAKIT PINAG-UUSAPAN ANG PELIKULANG ITO!
Jennifer Love Hewitt Paul Nicholls
If Only
What if... life gives you a second chance... to love the one you lost?



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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
TV GUIDE
Monday - July 25 2005
Laura Jea
club
Saturday_8pm
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ABC
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Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
NBN						Teledyaryo	Tinig ng Bayan (Live)	Concert at the Park				Teledyaryo		Tinig ng Bayan (Live)		Dial M			
ABS-CBN 2	Kapamilya Cinema				Pasion de Amor	Mr Bean	Naruto	Qpids	Meteor Garden Season 2	TV Patrol World	Mga Anghel Na Walang Langit	Ikaw Ang Lahat Sa Akin	Kampanerang Kuba	Green Rose	Oh! Feel Young	OK Fine! Whatever			Insider
ABC 5			EZ Shop		The Basketball Show		TNA Impact		Sentro	Friends	Guinness Book Of Record		Fear Factor		Big News	Look Who's Talking		Billboard On-Air	
GMA 7	Saang Sulok Ng Langit	Now and Forever	Glass Shoes	Tenjho Tengo	Shaman King	Full Metal Alchemist	Full House	24 Oras		Extra Challenge		Darna	Encantadia	Sugo	Attic Cat	Lagot Ka, Isusumbong Kita			Saksi
RPN 9		Metro TV Shopping	Defenders Of The Earth	Hey Arnold!	As Told By Ginger	Wild Thornberries	Sponge Bob	Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	Simple Life 2		For Love Or Money 3		Biggest Loser		Newswatch Now	Sex & the City	Cerge For Truth	
IBC 13		EZ Shop		EZ Shop		Home Shopping Network	IBC Express Balita	Krusada Kontra Krimen		MTV		TM Phil 9-Ball		Demolition Monday		Outrageous	IBC News Tonite	Linawin Natin	
SBN 21		New Life TV Shop		New Life TV Shop				EZ Shop				Oras Ng Himala		Oras ng Katotohanan		Superfine Tv Shopping		Evening Devotions	
Studio 23						Super Gals		Get Backers	Beyblade	Wazzup Wazzup	America's Next Top Model	Tru Calling		Charmed		News Central	The Next Joe Millionaire		Travel Time
MYX	Star MYX	Urban MYX	Rock MYX	OPM MYX	My MYX	Take 5	MYX Backtrax	MYX Firsts	Mellow MYX	Pop MYX	Urban MYX	MYX Daily Top Ten		OPM MYX Countdown		My MYX	OPM MYX	MYX Backtrax	Mellow MYX
CNN		Business International		Larry King Live		World News	World Sport	Business International		World News	World Sport	World News Asia		World News	Living Golf	World News Asia		Your World Today	
ESPN		Tour De France	Table Tennis '05 Killerspin	Figure Skating		World Snooker Trick Shot Masters '04				2004 BCA Open 9-Ball C'ships Finals		Sportscenter Asia	Table Tennis '05 Killerspin	LPGA Golf				X Games Invitational	Sportscenter Asia
Sports Plus						Ultimate Fighting Championship				Nopi Tunerversion	Tour De France	FMX		Strongman		Tour De France	US Bank C'ship in Milwaukee Final		
Cinemax	Darkman II The Return Of Durant			Giant							A Case For Murder			Hostile Waters			Dead Silence (10:35PM)		
Hallmark Channel	Who's The Boss	Wife Swap		HCA: The Fairytaler	Sesame Street		Mad About You	Bewitched	The Nanny	Sue Thomas: F.B Eye		Wife Swap		Sabrina The Teenage Witch			Regenesis (10:35PM)		Sue Thomas: F.B Eye
Disney Channel	Mr Bean: The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Art Attack/Unlaltative Bunny	So Little Time	Buzz Lightyear Of Star Command	Martin Mystery	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Mr Bean: The Animated Series	House Of Mouse	Dinosaur Island			So Little Time	Sabrina, The Animated Series	Mickey Mouse and Friends	Chip N Dale's Rescue Rangers	Land Before Time III: The Time Of The Great Giving	
Discovery Channel		Body Work		Mummy Autopsy		Lion Battlefield		Wild Weather		Unsolved History				Wild Discovery		Concorde: Anatomy Of Disaster		Ramses, Wrath Of God Or Man?	
National Geographic		Built For The Kill		Animals Like Us		Be The Creature		Wildlife Detectives	Insects From Hell		Wow	About Asia		Nat'l Geographic Specials		Built For The Kill		Animals Like Us	
Cartoon Network	Scooby-Doo Show	The All New Popeye Show		Tom & Jerry Show	The Woody Woodpecker Show	X-Men Evolution	Static Shock	What's New Scooby Doo?	Atomic Betty	SD Gundam Force	Medabots	The Looney Tunes Show		The Powerpuff Girls	Johnny Bravo	Time Squad	Thundercats	What's New Scooby Doo?	Atomic Betty
Nickelodeon	Blues Clues	Rugrats	The Fairly Odd Parents	SpongeBob SquarePants	All That	Are You Afraid of the Dark?	100 Deeds of Eddie McDowd	The Amanda Show	The Adventures Jimmy Neutron	Fairly Odd Parents	SpongeBob SquarePants	As Told By Ginger	Yakkity Yak	Chalkzone	Rocket Power	Hey Arnold!	The Wild Thornberrys	The Angry Beavers	Rugrats
Lifestyle Network	Country Style	Interiors By Design	Decorating With Style	Decorating Cents	Molto Mario	Sweet Dreams	30 Minute Meals	Bill Boggs Corner	Unwrapped	Food 911	Area		NY Fashion Week	Life & Style		Life Is Great With Brooke Burke	Modern Girl's Guide	Breathing Room	Genuine Article
Star World		The Bold & The Beautiful		Hollywood Squares	Home Improvement	Buffy The Vampire Slayer		The Simpsons	The Drew Carey Show	Star News Asia	Friends	The King Of Queens	Still Standing	Yes Dear	Frasier	Boston Public		Friends	The King Of Queens
AXN		Lost		Worst Case Scenario		30 Seconds To Fame	E Buzz	PSI Factor (Season III)		Beastmaster		Record Setters		Fear Factor (Season V)		CSI: Miami		CSI: Miami	
JackTV	Street Smarts	Worst Case Scenario		Wave Host		WWE Velocity		Cheat	Just For Laughs	Mad TV		Kid Notorious	Comedy Central Presents	Insomniac W/ Dave Attell	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	Blue Collar TV	Banzai	Joe Schmo Show	
ETC		Complete Savages	Knock First	Blind Date	Fifth Wheel	Elimidate	Change of Heart	Seinfeld	Ambush Makeover	Friends	Will & Grace	The O.C.		Queer eye For The Straight Guy		ET Weekend		Who Wants To Marry My Dad	
HBO	Nat'l Lampoon's Christmas Vacation 2: Cousin Eddie's Island Adventure			Passionada (4:05PM)				Avenging Angelo (5:50PM)			Seeing Double			Wolf				Strip Search	
Star Movies				Sabretooth			Edward Scissorhands				The Haunted Mansion			Blue Streak			A Walk in the Clouds		
Cinema One		Gigolo				Mga Batang Lansangan Ngayon				Abel Villarama Armado				Ubos Na Ang Luha Ko				La Fuga	
EWTN	The Church And The Poor-Building Bridges	Angelus (3:15PM)	Benediction And Devotion Encore	Faith Factory A	Image Of God	Rosary With Mother Angelica	EWTN Gallery	Threshold Of Hope Encore		Sunday Night Live With Fr. Groeschel		Daily Mass		Angelus (9:15PM)	Holy Spirit In The Church	St. Matthew Evangelist Of The Church	Getting God's Help	Catholic Compass	

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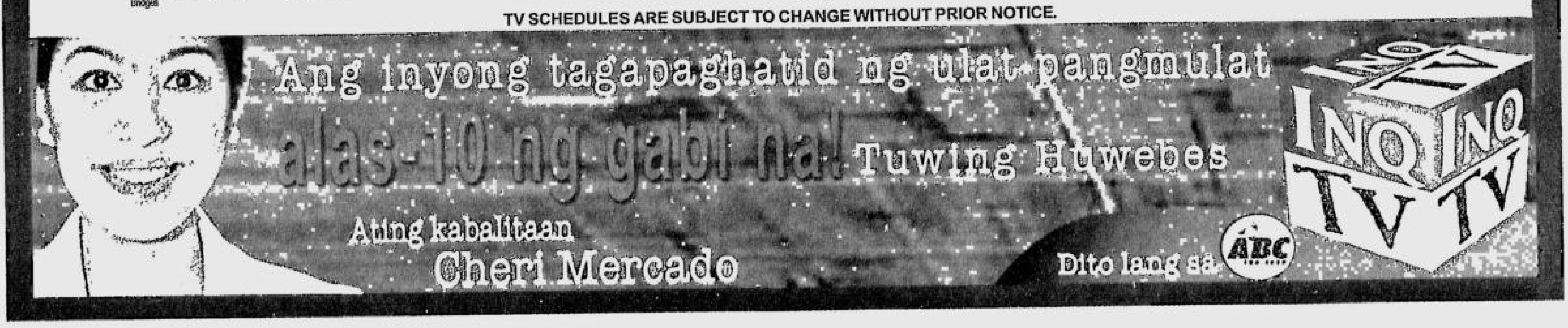

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Rhea: Loud equals happy

By Marinel R. Cruz
Photos by Joseph Agcaoili

OUT OF THE CLOSET

"MY WORK requires me to wear simple and serious outfits. If only I could, I'd like to be different, to explore, and wear something out of the ordinary," declares TV host and newsreader Rhea Santos.

Rhea hosts three news and public affairs shows on GMA 7. She appears weekdays on the early morning program "Unang Hirit." She is also seen Wednesday nights on "Pinoy Abroad" with Ivan Mayrina, and Sunday mornings on "At Your Service."

"People are so used to seeing me wear simple stuff that my co-hosts in 'Unang Hirit' got surprised one day when they saw me wearing big pieces of jewelry," Rhea says. "But you should understand why they reacted that way. We shouldn't distract viewers."

Off camera, Rhea says, she prefers wearing tattered jeans and strappy sandals. She also collects loud-colored lingerie tops and spaghetti-strapped blouses because, "I need to feel sexy inside and out. They make me feel more confident."

Loud colors cheer her up, explains Rhea as she ushers INQUIRER Entertainment into the condominium unit in Quezon City that she shares with husband Carlo de Guzman. The paintings on the walls are proof positive. "I actually asked my husband to pick those with bright colors. Gusto ko masaya."

TOPS

"I don't have a particular favorite, but I'm into lingerie tops, like those that I bought from U2 and Gap. I collect spaghetti-strapped and short-

RHEA/ A2-4

"I NEED to feel sexy inside and out," says the 5-foot-9 TV host.

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Alejandra Quiros
Hersey Lee
Adelina Partisala
Lailani Esguerra
Ma. Cristina Billadas
Cecille Romorosa
Juliet Manlutac
Lolita Galumalim
Asma Guillermo
Norline Bona
Rosalinda Templo
Sherlyn Reyes
Loida Tecson

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Robert Pilar
Fervilynn Solidum
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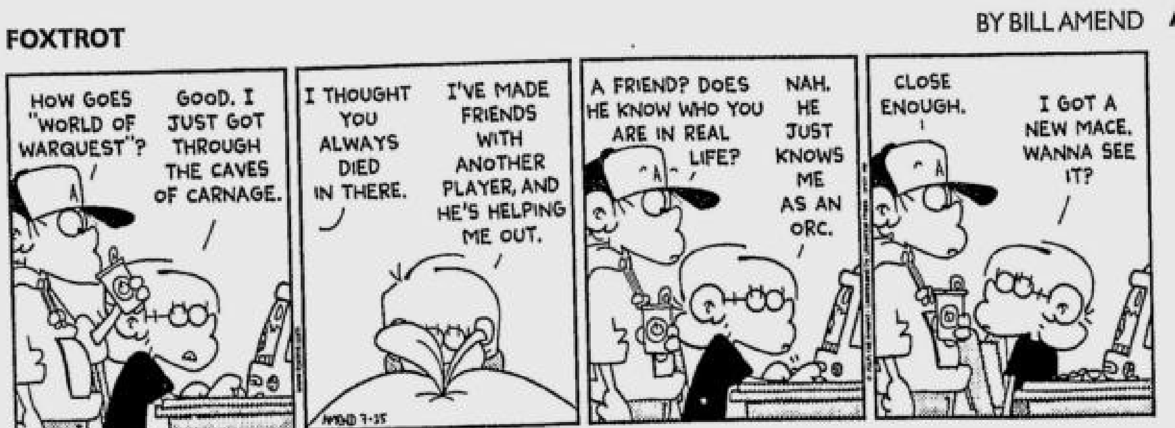
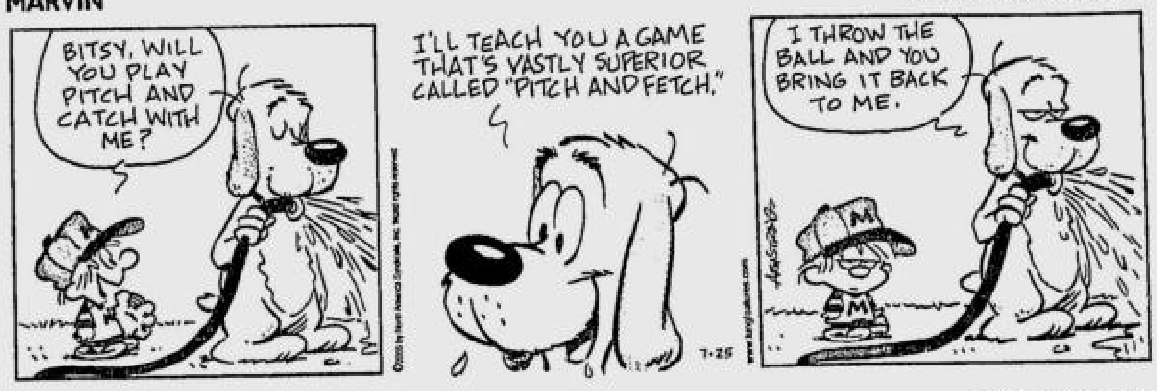
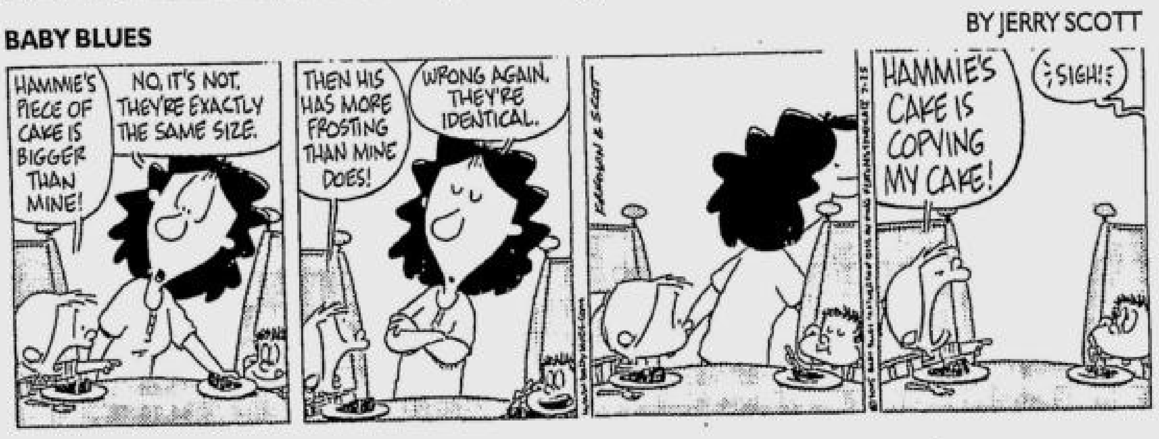
FOXTROT BY BILL AMEND


HOW GOES "WORLD OF WARQUEST"?
GOOD. I JUST GOT THROUGH THE CAVES OF CARNAGE.
I THOUGHT YOU ALWAYS DIED IN THERE.
I'VE MADE FRIENDS WITH ANOTHER PLAYER, AND HE'S HELPING ME OUT.
A FRIEND? DOES HE KNOW WHO YOU ARE IN REAL LIFE?
NAH. HE JUST KNOWS ME AS AN ORC.
CLOSE ENOUGH.
I GOT A NEW MACE. WANNA SEE IT?

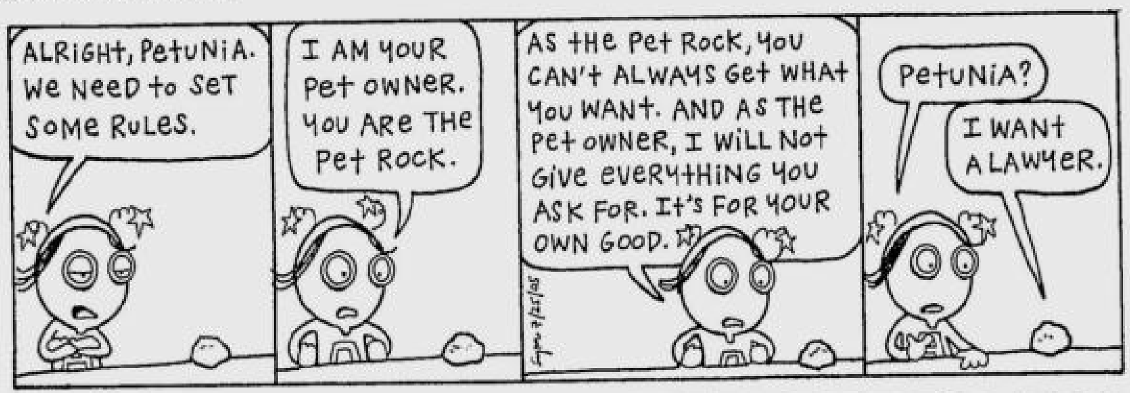
MARVIN BY TOM ARMSTRONG


BITSY, WILL YOU PLAY PITCH AND CATCH WITH ME?
I'LL TEACH YOU A GAME THAT'S VASTLY SUPERIOR CALLED "PITCH AND FETCH."
I THROW THE BALL AND YOU BRING IT BACK TO ME.
7-25

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT


HAMMIE'S PIECE OF CAKE IS BIGGER THAN MINE!
NO, IT'S NOT. THEY'RE EXACTLY THE SAME SIZE.
THEN HIS HAS MORE FROSTING THAN MINE DOES!
WRONG AGAIN. THEY'RE IDENTICAL.
HAMMIE'S CAKE IS COPYING MY CAKE!
;SIGH!;

ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO


ALRIGHT, PETUNIA. WE NEED TO SET SOME RULES.
I AM YOUR PET OWNER. YOU ARE THE PET ROCK.
AS THE PET ROCK, YOU CAN'T ALWAYS GET WHAT YOU WANT. AND AS THE PET OWNER, I WILL NOT GIVE EVERYTHING YOU ASK FOR. IT'S FOR YOUR OWN GOOD.
PETUNIA?
I WANT A LAWYER.

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're a natural leader, and you're respected because you are kind and considerate to others. You can teach or explore both artistic and scientific career paths. You are devoted to family and vice versa. Obstacles simply galvanize you into action. Your romances are dramatic. The year ahead presents interesting choices to you. Choose wisely.

Birthdate of: Walter Payton, football star; Maxfield Parrish, artist; Matt LeBlanc, actor.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): This is a wonderful way to start the week off. You feel efficient, serious and ready to work hard. You won't shy away from serious stuff. You want to get the job done!

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Time spent alone might give you good answers about domestic or family problems. There are definitely things you need to sort out now. (You're trying to solidify your home base.)

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Serious discussions with people who are older or more experienced than you are valuable today. Learn from the mistakes of others. Furthermore, learn on their money!

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Others notice you today and turn to you for answers or suggestions. Don't hesitate to give them the benefit of your experience. You are an excellent long-range planner.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Travel plans and matters connected with publishing and education are exciting today. This is not pie-in-the-sky stuff. This is practical and doable!

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): You feel quite strongly about defending what is yours. You're not casual about the ownership of things today. You also defend the rights of others. (It's one of those days.)

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Your ability to relate to others is very good today. However, avoid getting into heated debates with friends and partners. Some people are looking for a fight!

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): You have amazing energy to accomplish a lot at work today. Roll up your sleeves and get down to it. You'll be surprised at what you get done.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Trust your creative impulses today. You have great ideas connected with professional sports and anything to do with children or the arts. You're not afraid to try new things today.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): While others are sorting out what they think they own and what they think they owe you, you can, in turn, just sit tight. Don't push your agenda. See what happens all by itself.

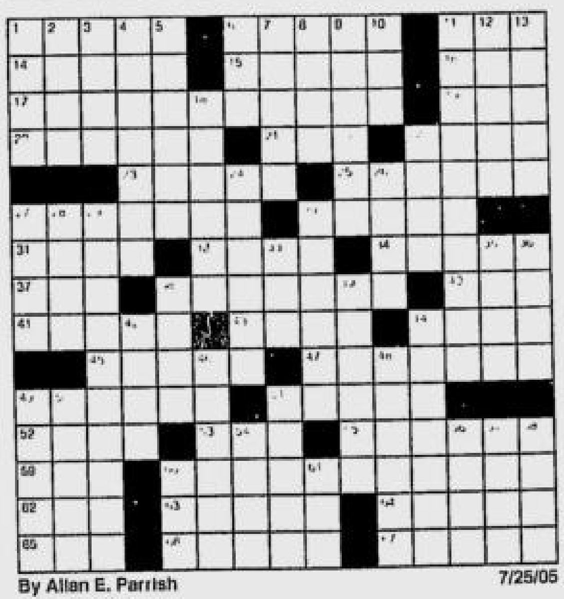
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): This is a highly social day. Everybody wants to see you. Ex-partners and old flames might be on the scene. You could generate some juicy gossip!

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Let's hope others listen to you at work today. You do have good ideas. Furthermore, your ideas can bring about a positive benefit for a long time in the future.

DAILY CROSSWORD

THE Daily Crossword

Edited by Wayne Robert Williams



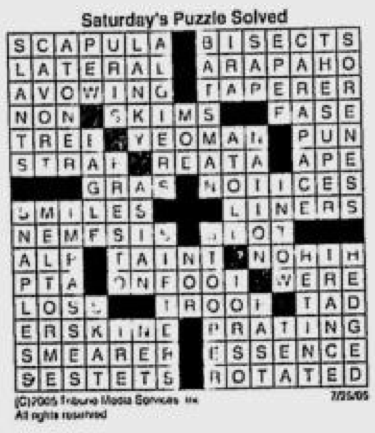
By Allan E. Parrish
Mentor, OH

7/25/05

ACROSS
1 Staples Center cager
6 Abrupt yanks
11 Parts of lbs.
14 Former Mrs. Trump
15 Dined at home
16 Fido's doc
17 Carnival ride
19 "__ Maria"
20 Gasoline rating
21 Slightly askew
22 Wild plum
23 Seeds and spores
25 Writer Rostand
27 Experience
30 Concise
31 Uttered
32 Perry's creator
34 Suit
37 Pompous one
38 Loops
40 Ferocity
41 Ex post __
43 Norway capital
44 Private sch.
45 L.L. Bean rival
47 Football teams
49 Looked into
51 Commune near Trieste
52 Like many doilies
53 Whitney's invention
55 Nautical rescue system
59 Wapiti
60 Chapel token
62 Zoo denizen
63 Ex- Sen. Carol Moseley __
64 Ancient city on the Nile
65 Commandment word
66 Valuable quality
67 One Astaire

DOWN
1 Accounting acronym
2 With, in Arles
3 Miniature race car
4 Seeing red
5 __ Maria Rilke
6 Yammer
7 Cultural values
8 Coral colony
9 "24" star Sutherland
10 NBC weekend presentation
11 Room in the White House
12 "Werewolves of London" singer
13 Knight's mount
18 Composer Prokofiev
22 Hook's mate
24 Following day, poetically
26 Claim to a share
27 Mil. wing
28 Shuttle grp.
29 Platter player
30 Flared
33 Pre-World Series abbr.
35 Iraq's neighbor
36 Turner and Williams
38 Heart
39 Carried by the wind
42 Frozen dessert chain
44 Affirmed
46 Border cutters
48 Conundrum
49 Skirt's fold
50 Designer Lauren
51 Not justified
54 McKinley and Cantor
56 King's address
57 Hydroxyl compound
58 Screenwriter James
60 Ring grp.
61 Bank payt.

Saturday's Puzzle Solved



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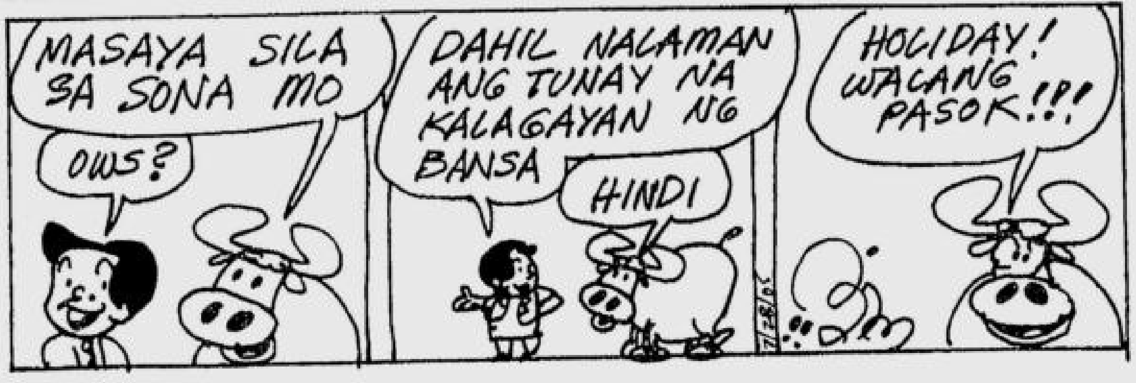
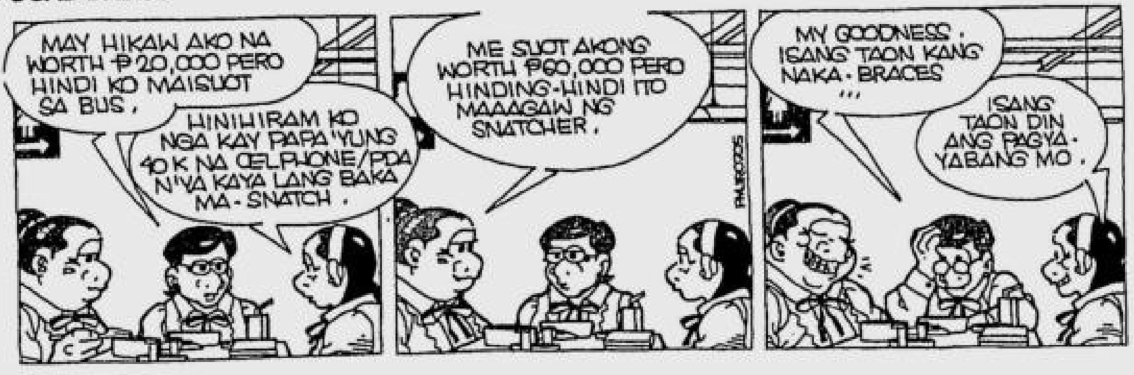
7/25/05

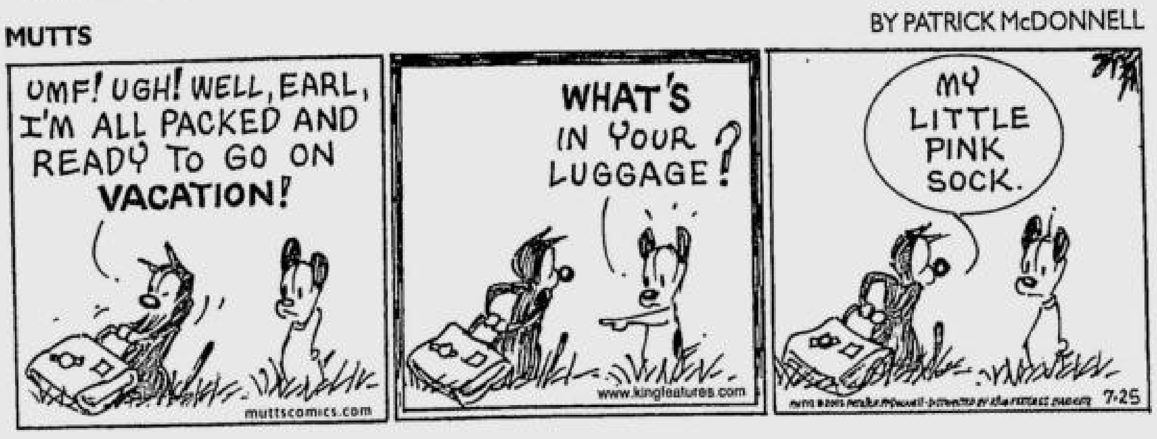
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA


MASAYA SILA SA SONA MO
OWS?
DAHIL NALAMAN ANG TUNAY NA KALAGAYAN NG BANSA
HINDI
HOLIDAY! WALANG PASOK!?!

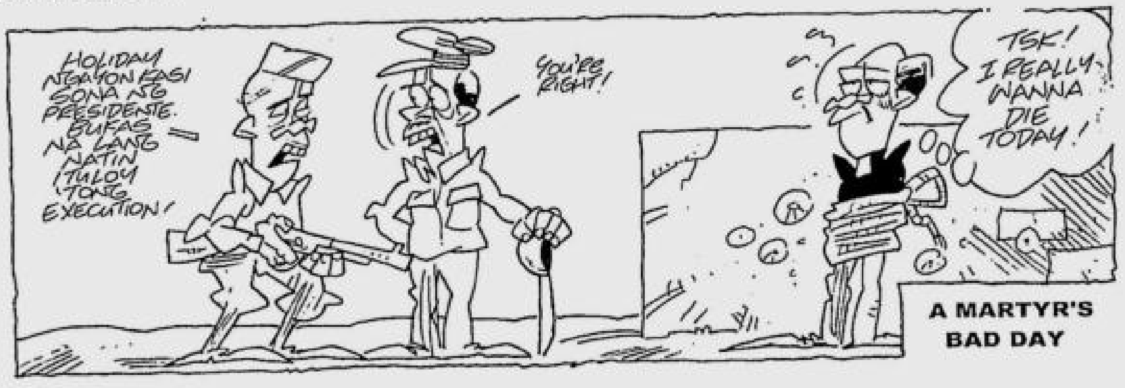
PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR


MAY HIKAW AKO NA WORTH ₱20,000 PERO HINDI KO MAISUOT SA BUS.
HINIHIRAM KO NGA KAY PAPA 'YUNG 40 K NA CELPHONE/PDA N'YA KAYA LANG BAKA MA-SNATCH.
ME SUOT AKONG WORTH ₱60,000 PERO HINDING-HINDI ITO MAAAGAW NG SNATCHER.
MY GOODNESS. ISANG TAON KANG NAKA-BRACES ...
ISANG TAON DIN ANG PAGYA-YABANG MO.

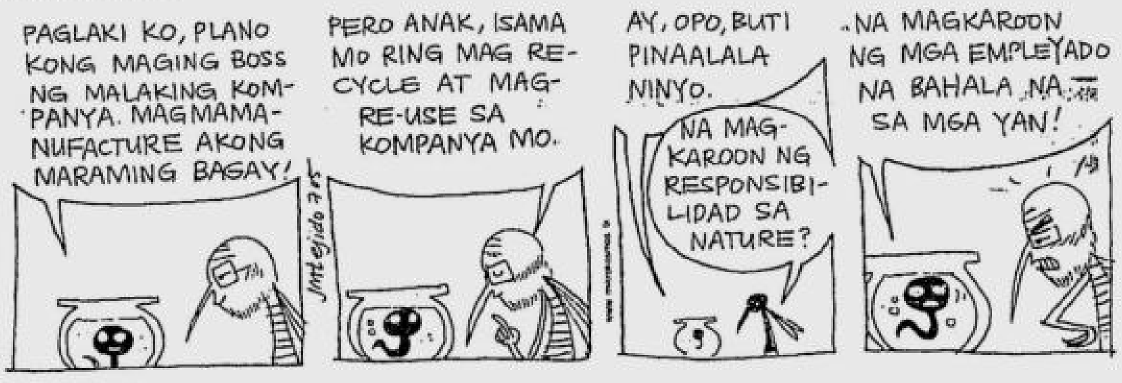
MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL


UMF! UGH! WELL, EARL, I'M ALL PACKED AND READY TO GO ON VACATION!
WHAT'S IN YOUR LUGGAGE?
MY LITTLE PINK SOCK.
muttscomics.com
www.kingfeatures.com
7-25

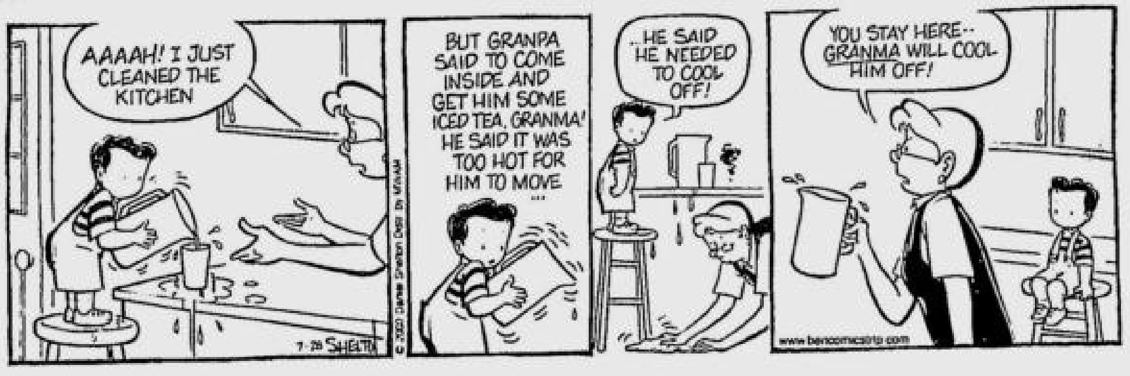
DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS


HOLIDAY NGAYON KASI SONA NG PRESIDENTE. BUKAS NA LANG NATIN ITULOY 'TONG EXECUTION!
YOU'RE RIGHT!
TSK! I REALLY WANNA DIE TODAY!
A MARTYR'S BAD DAY

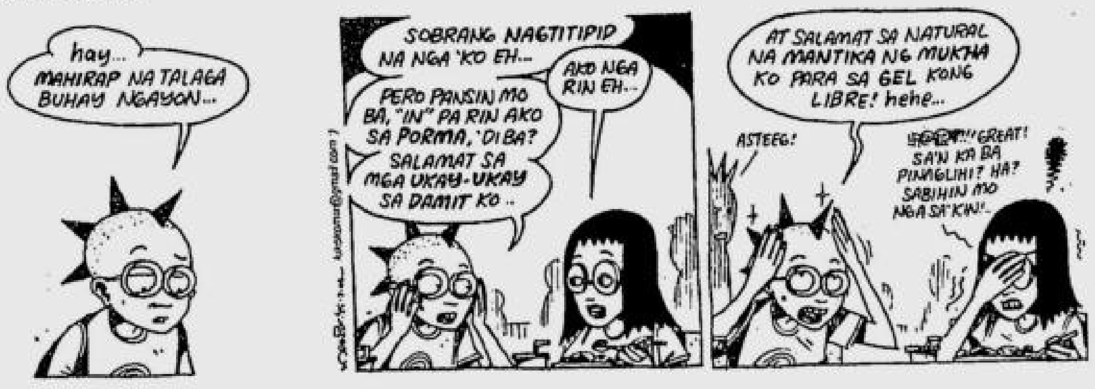
MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


PAGLAKI KO, PLANO KONG MAGING BOSS NG MALAKING KOMPANYA. MAGMAMANUFACTURE AKONG MARAMING BAGAY!
PERO ANAK, ISAMA MO RING MAG RE-CYCLE AT MAG-RE-USE SA KOMPANYA MO.
AY, OPO, BUTI PINAALALA NINYO.
NA MAGKAROON NG RESPONSIBILIDAD SA NATURE?
..NA MAGKAROON NG MGA EMPLEYADO NA BAHALA NA SA MGA YAN!

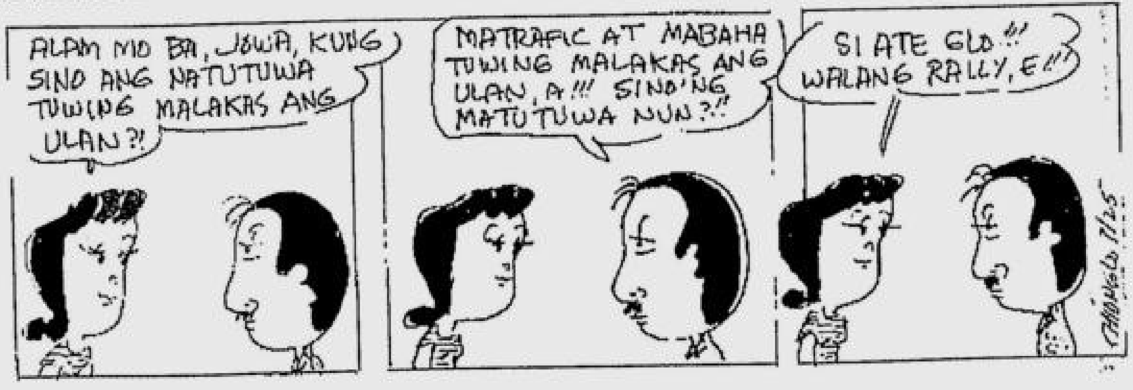
BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON


AAAAH! I JUST CLEANED THE KITCHEN
BUT GRANPA SAID TO COME INSIDE AND GET HIM SOME ICED TEA, GRANMA! HE SAID IT WAS TOO HOT FOR HIM TO MOVE ...
...HE SAID HE NEEDED TO COOL OFF!
YOU STAY HERE-- GRANMA WILL COOL HIM OFF!
www.bencomicstrip.com

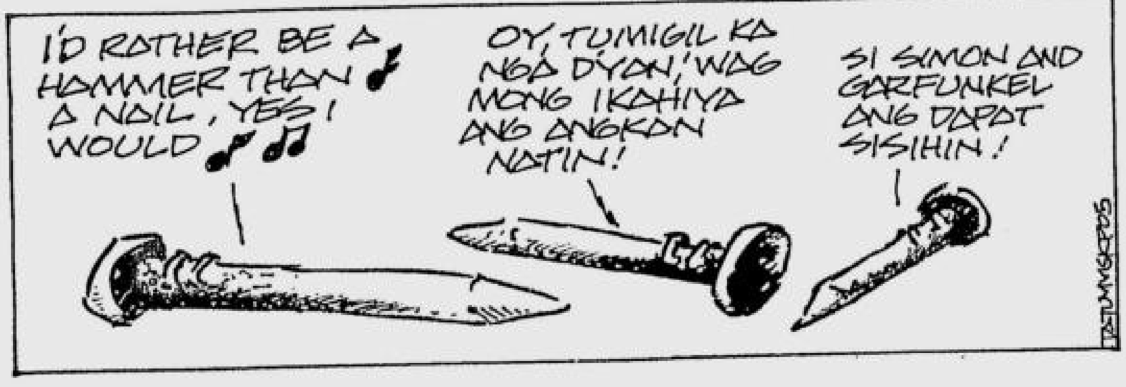
KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA


hay... MAHIRAP NA TALAGA BUHAY NGAYON...
SOBRANG NAGTITIPID NA NGA 'KO EH...
AKO NGA RIN EH...
PERO PANSIN MO BA, "IN" PA RIN AKO SA PORMA, 'DI BA? SALAMAT SA MGA UKAY-UKAY SA DAMIT KO..
AT SALAMAT SA NATURAL NA MANTIKA NG MUKHA KO PARA SA GEL KONG LIBRE! hehe...
ASTEEG!
GREAT! SA'N KA BA PINAGLIHI? HA? SABIHIN MO NGA SA'KIN!

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


ALAM MO BA, JOWA, KUNG SINO ANG NATUTUWA TUWING MALAKAS ANG ULAN?!
MATRAFIC AT MABAHA TUWING MALAKAS ANG ULAN, A!!! SINO'NG MATUTUWA NUN?!
SI ATE GLO!!! WALANG RALLY, E!!!

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


I'D RATHER BE A HAMMER THAN A NAIL, YES I WOULD
OY, TUMIGIL KA NGA DYAN, 'WAG MONG IKAHIYA ANG ANGKAN NATIN!
SI SIMON AND GARFUNKEL ANG DAPAT SISIHIN!

BIOLINK

Positive changes

" Everything happens for a reason and I'm happy it happened to me."

BIOLINK
Green Papaya
SOAP

Criselle, Malabon

Dear Biolink,

As a child, I was always very free-spirited and carefree. Being the only girl in a family of three boys, I was used to playing basketball and rough games with my brothers. That's why my fashion sense was usually sporty. I'd always just be in sneakers whenever I'd go out. Comfort rules over looks in my book. My mom would always take me shopping for dresses, makeup and accessories but I was just never into that. In fact, my last up do was when I attended my high school prom!

Ateneo blood runs in my family, so I always felt pressured to study there as well. So I applied, but unfortunately I wasn't accepted. I felt so bad that I locked myself up in my room just watching TV and reading magazines for days. One night, while watching "The Princess Diaries", Princess Mia's makeover inspired me so much that I wanted to improve on myself as well. I went through my closet and realized that all I had were shirts and jeans! You wouldn't even think it was a girl's closet if you saw it. I went to my dresser, looked in the mirror and thought of taking off my braces, my bug-eyed glasses and using contacts instead. And so I did...

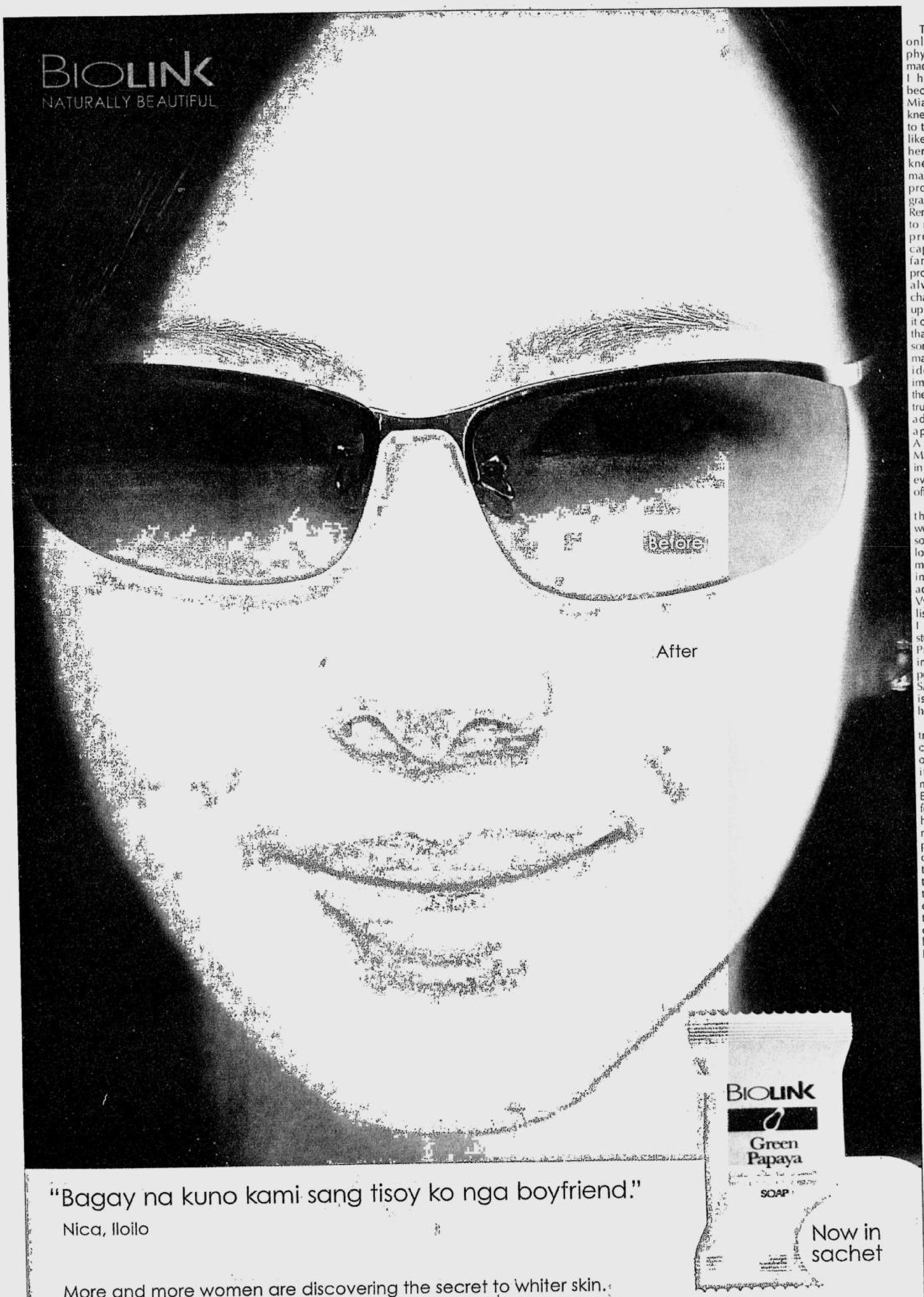
That movie not only changed me physically, it also made me realize that I had potential to become better. Like Mia Thermopolis, I knew I could step up to the challenge just like what she did for her country. I also knew that I could make my parents as proud as how her grandmother, Queen Renaldi was. I thought to myself "I want to prove what I'm capable of so my family would be proud of me". I have always loved the challenge of coming up with big ideas that it came as no surprise that I was inclined to something that could make me express my ideas freely and imaginatively. It was then that I realized my true calling – to be in advertising. So I applied for the Advertising Management course in DLSU. I passed and everything just took off from there.

Now in La Salle, things are just wonderful. I'm having so much fun; I have a lot of friends, I shop more often and I'm so interested with my advertising classes. Vying for the Dean's list is easier because I love what I'm studying. And just like Princess Mia, I'm involved in a socio-political group called SANTUGON, which is my own way of helping my country.

For me, transformation is the change in all aspects of a person's life may it be physically, mentally or spiritually. Everything happens for a reason and I'm happy it happened to me. It is when we're pushed to move out of our comfort zones that we grow and get to experience new things. Staying a certain way for a long time is safe, but changing for the better is always healthy.

Sincerely,

Criselle,
Malabon



"Bagay na kuno kami sang tisoy ko nga boyfriend."

Nica, Iloilo

More and more women are discovering the secret to whiter skin.

♀

Do you have a story of positive change that you want to share? Write to us at Splash Care PO Box 1126 QC Central PO. Or email us at splashcare@splashcorp.com. The best stories will receive a free gift pack from Biolink.

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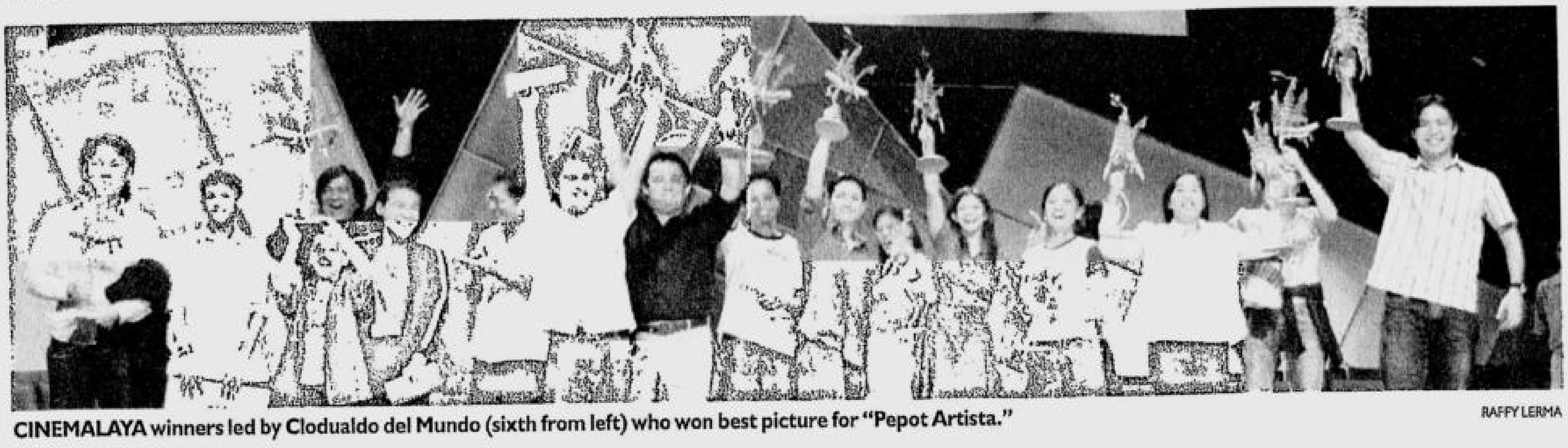

CINEMALAYA winners led by Clodualdo del Mundo (sixth from left) who won best picture for "Pepot Artista."

RAFFY LERMA

Sustaining the indie spirit

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

AND now, the hard work.

After the euphoria of the first ever Cinemalaya Independent Film Festival, the groundwork to make it a yearly event begins.

Nestor O. Jardin, president of the Cultural Center of the Philippines, admitted that the Cinemalaya was inspired by Sundance, the alternative film fest spearheaded by Hollywood actor Robert Redford.

"We want an annual, regular festival," Jardin told the audience at the CCP Little Theater at the end of the two-day congress. "We plan to forge ahead even if we don't know where to get the money."

This year, the Philippine Multi-Media Systems Inc., or Dream Satellite TV, extended its full support. Powered by the "good will" generated by the film fest's success, Jardin expressed his hope that they'd have an "easier time" attracting more sponsors next year.

To sustain the indie spirit, organizers formed the Cinemalaya Foundation, a non-stock, not-for-profit NGO, whose main purpose is "to help develop and support movies that boldly articulate and freely interpret the Filipino experience with fresh insight and integrity."

That is the Pinoy indie spirit defined.

New audiences

Defining "independent," however, became the subject of debate at the congress.

Filmmaker Jeffrey Jeturian pointed out that it was possible to "work within the mainstream and still maintain the original spirit of [the] film."

Nicanor Tiongson, dean of the University of the Philippines' College of Mass Communications, reiterated an observation made during the congress: "People in the mainstream are not the enemies. There are common areas of cooperation."

In the Cinemalaya film fest, commercial stars like Eddie Garcia and Elizabeth Oropesa generously shared their time and talent.

Another issue raised was the importance of "building and creating new audiences."

Ric Camaligan, first vice president for operations of SM Leisure Center Inc., announced that by next year, SM Cinemas would have 200 theaters in 32 locations.

In spite of the challenges confronting the industry (most notably, the VAT and other taxes), Camaligan stressed that SM would continue to support local movies "We are putting in digital projectors in seven locations: in Megamall, Podium, North Edsa, Southmall, Manila and Centerpoint."

Tony Gloria of Unitel emphasized the wisdom of looking beyond local theatrical runs. He cited how "Santa Santita" beefed up its earnings by venturing into ancillary markets like international screenings, cable and DVD sales.

Confronted by the changing realities in the local industry, the Cinemalaya filmmakers remained defiantly optimistic.

Breaking the mold

"Just last year, our group of scriptwriters was only dreaming of producing our own movie," said Raymond Lee, producer of "Sarong Banggi" and "Ang Pagdadalaga ni Maximo Oliveros," which won the Special Jury award. "That was our goal: to break the mold and change the producer's role from financier to a creative force."

He acknowledged, however, that the Roadrunner digital post-production package, which they won as part of the Special Jury prize, would be a big help to their group. "It includes sound, online and offline editing, audio post and DVD authoring which is worth P850,000 and negotiated for the festival by [Seiko producer and monitoring committee member] Robbie Tan."

Clodualdo del Mundo Jr., Best Picture winner for "Pepot Artista," said the award was "just icing on the cake. I am happy for the staff and more than happy having finished the film."

Monster Jimenez, who cinched best screenplay for "Big Time," said, "All the movies were *de-kalibre* (of high quality). I'm proud to be part of this community of filmmakers, writers and artists."

Jimenez's collaborator, Mario Cornejo, called the film fest "miraculous" for yielding a bumper crop of "good movies." Jimenez added: "Distributors are now interested in picking up some films."

"The festival is proof that we have talents that should be nurtured," Del Mundo summed up the film fest. "We have a vibrant cinema even outside the mainstream."

Rhea: Loud equals happy

From page A2-1

sleeved tops and wear them under suits."

SUITS

"I love loud-colored suits because they look good on television. *Kitang-kita ka.* But I also have the basic black, white and beige. My favorite designer is Paul Cabral. He's a family friend so he gives me discounts (laughs). He makes most of my suits and gowns. I think he's one of the best designers right now.

"But I also have suits bought abroad. For our Chinese New Year coverage on 'Unang Hirit,' I bought these Chinese-inspired jackets in Hong Kong. I got this (shows a red Chinese-collared suit) there during my shoot for 'Pinoy Abroad.' This is worth less than a thousand pesos. I already used it for one of my newscasts.

"I was asked to endorse One Card, which in turn gave me Laurel jackets from Shangri-la. I love wearing them for newscasts. They're neither too formal nor too casual. They're different from the usual tailored suits."

PANTS

"I call these party jeans. Tattered jeans are in fashion these days. I got this one when my husband, his brother and I went to Hong Kong in May for a vacation. My husband told me to look for denims with shimmer. Sexy *daw kasi.* We were going around Times Square when I saw this at Jessica. I said, 'Wow! Tattered *na, may* shimmer *pa.*' This is best for going out at night. I just match it with a plain-colored blouse.

"Whenever I buy jeans, I try them on first. I prefer hipsters and low-waisted jeans. I also buy really long jeans so I could wear them with high-heeled shoes. I also don't wash my jeans immediately. I like them really soft."

ACCESSORIES

"To be honest, I bought only one pair of dark glasses for myself—these sporty shades from Oakley that I use when my husband and I go to the beach. This is actually made for men. I bought it because I like the fit.

COLORFUL suits look good on TV, says Rhea.

"The others have been provided by Optical Works, which gives me Versace and Versus glasses. I also own a pair of reading glasses, which I hardly use because my bosses in GMA 7 would rather that I use contact lenses instead.

"This green Abel Iloco shawl is a gift from a councilor friend from Vigan. I visited the province recently to shoot for 'At Your Service.' Abel Iloco is one of Vigan's products. What my friend does is buy the fabrics, sew beads on them and sell them in Intramuros.

"My mother-in-law bought one shawl for me when she went to Singapore.

I've not used this yet. But I really like the color. It looks clean and dainty. I also like it because it kind of shimmers.

"I also have shawls that I bought personally and those that Arnold Clavio gave me for 'Unang Hirit.'

"Most of my accessories are made from semi-precious stones and Swarovski crystals. It was only recently that I started buying jewelry for investment, like this pair of white gold earrings that I use for going out and formal occasions. My mother-in-law is into jewelry. She gave me this Naomi pearl necklace, which I often use on TV. This white gold necklace is a birthday gift from my husband. He bought this in PS2, a jewelry store at the Power Plant Mall in Rockwell. The owner is a family friend."

SHOES

"My sister-in-law makes shoes. She supplies local shoe stores but she hopes to have her own store some day. I like shoes that shimmer, like these pairs in bronze, gold and silver. They're very comfortable. My co-hosts in 'Unang Hirit' rejoiced when they saw me in ballet flats. I used to wear heels on the set, and most of the time, Arnold did not want to stand beside me.

"I have a hard time buying shoes here, too. The biggest size available is 9, but I'm a size 10. However, I can go to Nine West; they have big sizes. I also love the quality of the shoes—*sulit*.

"My current favorite is this pair of black strappy sandals that I bought in Italy. I don't have many formal shoes, and most of what I have are really worn out now. I like this particular pair because it's sexy. It's ideal for going out.

"I also bought a pair of all-weather boots during a winter sale in Florence. This only cost 50 euros. What I really wanted was to buy myself a pair of Ugg boots. Because of 'Pinoy Abroad,' I travel a lot. I have to be ready for extreme weather changes.

"I saw a pair of Pumas that I really liked when my husband and I went to Europe on our honeymoon. But it was still so expensive then. I called my brother in San Francisco, and asked him to look for that particular style. He found it! I like the color combination; parang pang-bad girl.

"I also own a couple of slip-ons, one of which was a gift from my mom. She got it at a flea market in New York. They're very comfy and they're my size. The rest were bought in local department stores."

SHE likes the fit of these Oakleys, but they're made for men.

BAGS

"I bought two pieces of Prada bags in Hong Kong. They're in red and chocolate brown. They're my current favorites. I still buy bags from the flea market, though.

"I also have one from Louis Vuitton. I like its color—khaki. It looks really clean. I could match it with anything. I'm really targeting the J.Lo bag. *Pero ang mahal lang n'ya talaga.*

"I bought this Dior bag in Europe. I love the style—it's so different. It's small, cute and really funky. Whenever I use this, I get a lot of compliments, even from guys."

RHEA saves money so she could buy her Prada, Dior and Louis Vuitton bags.

NAOMI pearl necklace is a gift from her mother-in-law.

FAVE party pants from Jessica

RHEA, a size 10, has a hard time finding shoes here so she buys them abroad, like this strappy sandals from Italy.

August treats at the CCP

AFTER the successful staging of the Cinemalaya Independent Film Festival and **Ryan Cayabyab**'s "Birhen ng Caysasay" earlier this month, the Cultural Center of the Philippines presents these viewing and listening treats through the month of August:

July 22-24, "Ang Paglilitis ni Mang Serapio" and "Buhay sa Tambakan," featuring talents of GMA Talent Center.

July 28, opening of **Dennis Gonzales'** "Hombre" art exhibit, dealing with man's ability to alter circumstances to achieve his dreams. Until Sept. 11.

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

July 22-24, Philippine Ballet Theater's staging of the classical ballet, "Swan Lake."

July 27, Filipino Artists Series concert, featuring clarinetist **Ariel Sta. Ana**.

July 29-31, the **Ramon Obusan** Folkloric Group's "Noon Po sa Amin," a survey of Philippine history through dance, music and drama.

Abstract paintings

Aug. 4, opening of "Woven Tales," **Bienvenido Benitez**'s exhibit of abstract paintings (until Sept. 11).

Aug. 5-11, Ballet Philippines' "Men and Women," highlighting the fusion of bodies and issues involving both sexes.

Aug. 6, "Wan Dey Isang Araw" starts broadcasting on dzAS, Saturdays from 9 to 9:30 a.m. Featuring interviews with authors, and storytellers interpreting stories in Filipino books for children.

Aug. 9, the monthly Italian Film Festival screens "Cento Pass!," the true story of **Peppino Impastato**, a young left-wing activist in the '70s who repeatedly denounced his uncle's Mafia crimes at a time when no one dared to speak out. **Marco Tulio Giordana**'s film was awarded best screenplay at the Venice film fest.

Aug. 11, opening of "Kalooban," an exhibit of paintings by **Melvin Culaba** that mirror our people's transgressions.

Formal launching

Aug. 19-21, "Filipinescas"—formal launching of Filipinescas: Philippine Life, Legend and Love in Dance, by CSB-Filipinescas Dance Company.

Aug. 19, "Late Nite Cabaret"—a series of after-dinner shows featuring improv troupes, singers and musical theater artists. The Aug. 19 presentation features **Reuben Laurente** of The CompanY.

Aug. 26-28, the Bayanihan Philippine National Folk Dance Company in "All the World's Our Stage," a reprise of the acclaimed dance company's international repertoire, including two new suites —"Pearling the Orient" and "Isla de Binondo."

Aug. 5, Tanghalang Pilipino's "R'meo Luvs Dew-Lhiett," a very modern adaptation of **William Shakespeare**'s immortal love story, loosely based on **Rolando Tinio**'s Filipino translation. Until Aug. 28.

Aug. 8-13, **Jennifer Tipton**'s lighting workshop.

Aug. 31, Filipino Artists Series presents tenor **Abdul Candao** in concert at the CCP Little Theater.

Easy English seminars

Corban Daycare and Tutorial Center is slating a new series of Easy English seminars every Saturday and/or Sunday starting on July 30 and 31, from 2 to 5 p.m. The course for students, housewives and professionals is a comprehensive package of conversation, grammar and writing. Call 8426665.

Movies on TV

On HBO, July 25 at 1 p.m., "Gothika." 4:05 p.m., "Passionada." 5:30 p.m., "Avenging Angelo." On Cinemax, July 25 at 4 p.m., "Giant."

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MONDAY,
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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

B1

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PLDT firming up offer to buy Bayantel

Proposes swap of stake in Home Cable

By Clarissa S. Batino

PHILIPPINE Long Distance Telephone Co. has offered to buy Bayan Telecommunications Inc. from the Lopez family through a swap deal involving PLDT's remaining stake in the home cable business, well-placed sources said.

The sources said the telecom giant had been negotiating with the Lopez family for some months now but the talks were stalled by an offer of PLDT rival Globe Telecom Inc. to buy Bayantel.

PLDT's offer was to swap its one-third ownership in Beyond Cable Holdings—its joint venture with Lopez-owned SkyCable—with control of Bayantel. PLDT's Philippine Home Cable Holdings Inc. merged with two Lopez cable companies last year.

However, Globe president Gerardo Ablaza was quick to deny that his company revived talks to acquire Bayantel. PLDT officials declined to comment on the issue. Bayantel chief consultant Tunde Fafunwa said the company was actually planning to expand.

The joint venture of Ayala Corp. and Singapore Telecom admitted that seven years ago, it made an offer to buy Bayantel, but that the talks bogged down.

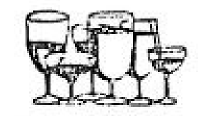
As for PLDT and Bayantel, sources said exploratory talks have been going on for some time now.

"There have been talks (but) PLDT and Bayantel cannot even progress to the level of conduct-

PLDT/ B3

WHAT'S INSIDE

Projects worth P42B OKd /B7



Gabby's US gravy /B3

RP still world's text capital

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE PHILIPPINES has remained the world's texting capital due to the magnitude of the volume of short messaging system or SMS the country churns out everyday, according to Swedish telecom provider Ericsson.

"The Philippines still holds the world record when it comes to texting. Asia in general generates quite a large volume of SMS," said Ericsson president for Southeast Asia Jan Signell.

Telecom executives estimate that about 200,000 text messages are sent daily in the Philippines. Operators charge an average of one peso for each SMS.

The visiting Ericsson executive said the Philippines made a mark globally because of its prevalent use of text messaging that allowed local operators to make a lot of money even if the average revenue for each user was lower compared to other countries.

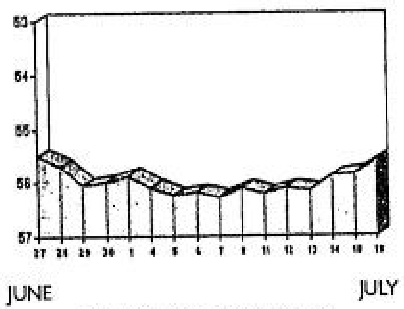
Despite forecasts of Philippine operators that growth in the country's fastest growing sector may slow due to a slew of economic and political factors, the Ericsson executive said he believed that local players could come up with innovative ways to continue driving growth.

"Let us not underestimate the creativity of Filipino operators to generate traffic," said

RP STILL/ B10

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

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As of 5 p.m., July 22, 2005

¥ 110.90 = $ 1

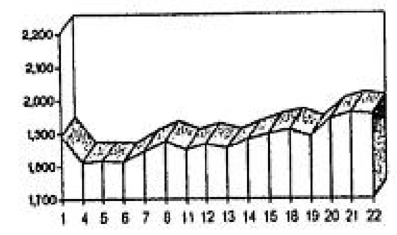
As of 3 p.m., July 22, 2005

GOLD: $423.30-423.80

per ounce Hong Kong, July 21, 2005

STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B9)

Trading to track Sona outcome

STOCKS are expected to track the outcome of President Macapagal-Arroyo's annual State of the Nation Address today as she struggles to keep the country's fiscal and economic program on track amid attacks on her ability to rule.

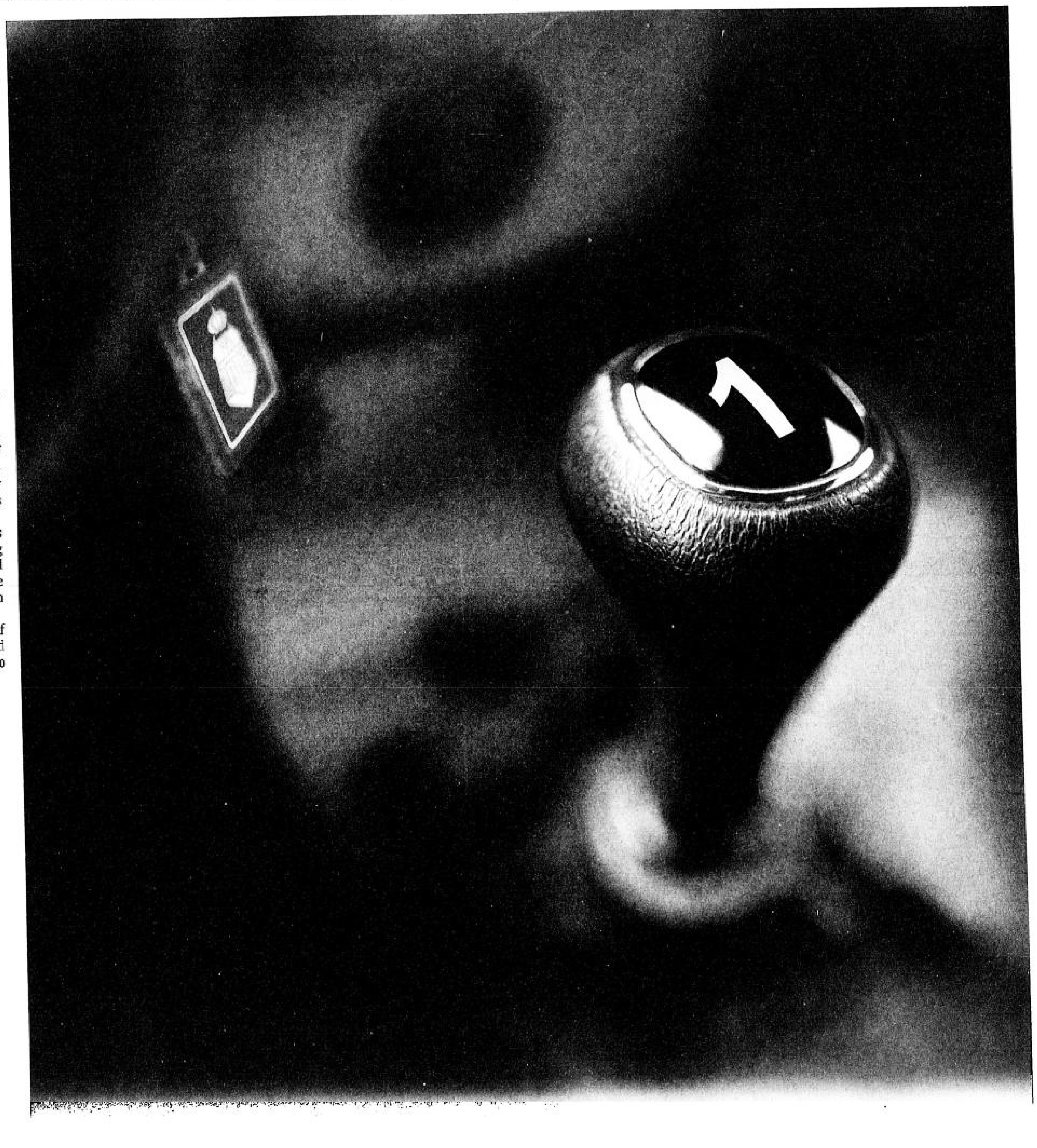
Ms Arroyo has been under fire for allegations of cheating in the 2004 presidential elections.

Stock trading, which has been suspended today following Malacañang's declaration of a non-working holiday, resumes tomorrow.

"The outlook for (this) week will be influenced mainly by the President's speech and by corporate results that will be coming out. Investors hope that the President will focus on the economic and political reform agenda in her Sona. They want to see political and economic reforms that would help build up trust in the government," BPI Trade said in a weekly report.

Last week, the market gained 57 points

TRADING/ B9



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Political crisis may unite Mindanao

MINDANAWORLD

Joji Ilagan-Bian

DURING the President's State of the Nation Address, it will be known whether the opposition can live up to its promise of mobilizing a "Gloria Resign" rally bigger than the July 13 opening salvo.

So far, this year's move to force the President to step down does not have a "broad-based multi-sector support." The number of rallyists coming from the middle class and business group and the youth sector, were not as big as those in the 1986 and 2001 people power revolutions.

The main reason the move to oust President GMA is drawing less support compared to Edsa I and Edsa II is that the people don't see a viable successor to the presidency and they have also developed the so-called people power fatigue.

In the past two peaceful revolutions, the people had a clear choice.

In 1986, there was Cory Aquino who obviously won the voting, but was cheated in the counting. In 2001, GMA appeared to be a good alternative who may arrest the country's economic and political decline.

But today, who will become President if GMA resigns?

Constitutionally, it's Noli de Castro.

This fact made some sectors hesitant to demand GMA's voluntary resignation. Many of the Edsa I and Edsa II veterans are now looking beyond removing the incumbent President.

They are looking at the country's prospects under the President's successor. For it is indeed very frustrating to remove a president extra-constitutionally, then not see things get any better.

GMA backers

In Mindanao, 156 political leaders consisting of governors, city mayors and municipal mayors have unanimously agreed to follow the constitutional process in resolving the political issues involving the presidency.

They have strongly denounced extra-constitutional means to unseat PGMA. The majority of the island's companies and organizations also said that it has the utmost trust in the ability of the constitutional processes to resolve these political questions.

The pro-GMA mayors and governors dramatized their support for the President with the threat to establish the Mindanao Federal Republic should GMA be ousted.

It is noteworthy to mention that "Mindanao votes" and Mindanao officials figured prominently in the "Hello Garci" tapes.

On the other hand, several people's organizations, civil society groups and the middle class are calling for PGMA's voluntary resignation because she has lost the moral authority to govern the country.

Among these groups are the Coalition of Dabawenyos for Truth (CD Truth), a grouping of nongovernment organizations, civil society groups, as well as religious and middle-class forces in Davao City. Other multi-sector groups in other provinces, cities, and municipalities, are also calling the President to step down.

Minda News reported that it's not true that it is only in Metro Manila where people are agitating for the resignation of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

There are groups like the Sisters Association in Mindanao in Malaybalay City, the militant farmers, fisherfolks of Cagayan de Oro City, 200 leaders and members of multi-sector groups of Iligan City who had joined the call.

The traditional leaders of Lanao del Sur belonging to the royal houses are behind GMA. They have adopted her as a Muslim princess years back.

To them it's a matter of "maratabat" or honor to defend the "Bai a labi."

Divided on issues

Mindanao is divided on this issue. But this is not surprising. In most cases, Mindanao is divided when it comes to political issues.

For example, the island has not delivered a "Mindanao vote." Even Mindanawon senators like Nene Pimentel managed to top only in his bailiwick of Cagayan de Oro City, but not in the whole island. This can be partly attributed to the diverse socioeconomic and political culture of Mindanao.

But why has this issue caused so much polarization among the Filipino people?

One reason is that we are missing the point. We are missing the real issues. Or we are evading them.

The real issues here are the legitimacy of the election of President GMA; the integrity of the country's top official; the sanctity of the people's right of suffrage; and the legal, ethical, and moral considerations of PGMA's staying in power.

Many politicians said that in the current political system, it is not possible for one to have untainted hands. This virtually confirmed the "common knowledge" of electoral fraud in the country. This "common knowledge" includes vote buying, vote padding and shaving, manipulation of electoral returns, among others.

This time of crisis is a time for discernment. What is happening today cast doubts on the validity of the electoral process.

Contributing to fraud

And in one way or another, we may have contributed to the evolving culture of corruption, or at least the culture of tolerance of corruption and electoral fraud.

There is a need for electoral reforms to restore the people's faith in the political system. There is a need for transformation of values.

There is a need for legislators to act on the proposed change in the form of government. The shift to a federal form of government may provide a political environment more conducive to transparency, accountability, and good governance.

It will be beneficial for the country. It will be beneficial for Mindanao, where there is diversity in socio-political and economic culture. The peculiar needs of the regions could be better addressed when they co-exist as independent states.

We need reforms. We have a lot of things to do, for our transformation as a people will involve a long process.

Should we allow the President to stay on as our country's leader and give her the much needed support for us to move on, or do we force her to step down because we believe that she has lost the moral authority to govern us? Do we truly believe that the constitutional processes will work?

These are questions that must be answered before we can truly work on necessary reforms. The honest answers to these questions, and the determination to act on these issues, may finally unite Mindanao in addressing the political crisis confronting the nation.

(Joji Ilagan Bian is a strong advocate for Mindanao; vice chair of the Mindanao Commission of Women and National Corn Board; chair of the Mindanao TVET; Mindanao Rep, Export Development Council and former chair of the Mindanao Business Council. Email comments to jojibian2@yahoo.com)

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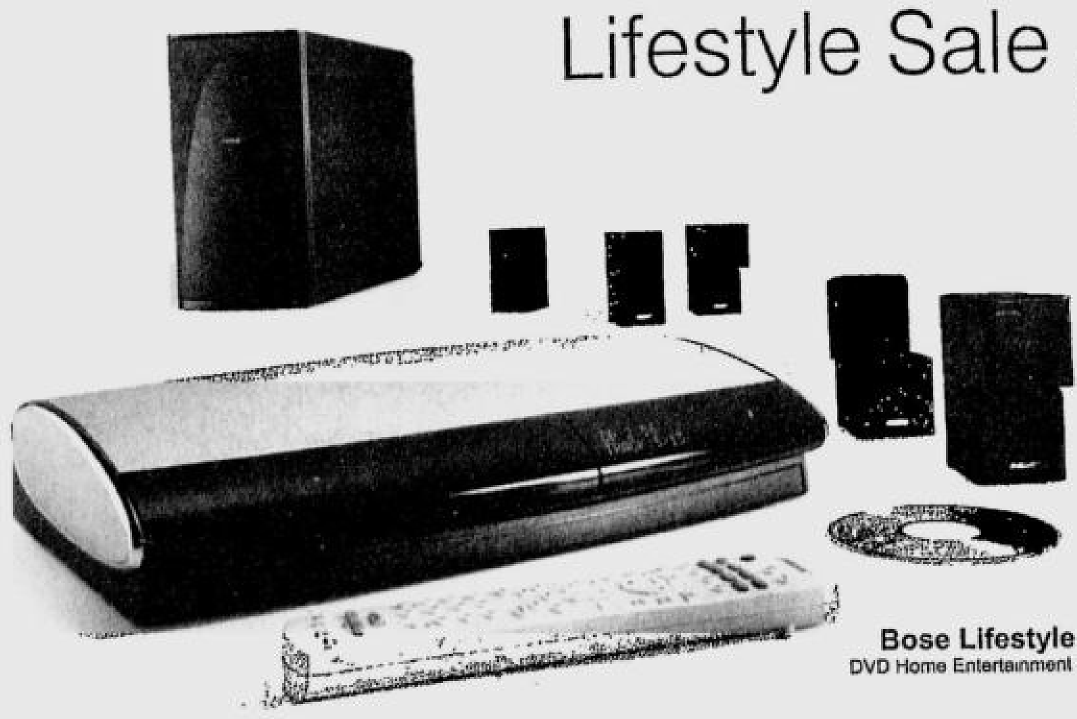

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BOSE

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GFIs, GOCCs urged to remit more dividends

By Michelle V. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT of Finance has asked state-owned firms—especially profitable financial institutions—to increase the dividends they remit to the national government to help close the budget gap.

Government-owned and -controlled corporations (GOCCs), and government financial institutions (GFIs) are tasked to remit half of their income to the national government.

But Finance Secretary Margarito "Gary" Teves said state-owned companies are encouraged to help the national government get out of its fiscal mess ahead of target by voluntarily increasing their contributions to state coffers.

"We are asking the help of everybody to go beyond the conventional way of doing their roles in government. We don't want to be in a situation where we will be in a crisis mode," Teves said in an interview with reporters.

As of end-May, the government has already collected P2.5 billion in dividends from state-owned firms.

The DOF's original target was to collect P4 billion this year, but Teves said the agency wanted to collect more.

Collecting higher dividends from GOCCs and GFIs was one of the proposed measures of the DOF to achieve a balanced budget ahead of the 2010 target.

INCREASE/ B9

Gabby's US gravy

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

LIKE the Philippines, ABS-CBN boss Eugenio "Gabby" Lopez III is increasingly relying on overseas Filipinos and his San Francisco-based younger brother, Rafael, to provide a financial lifeline to the family's hemorrhaging homebase operations.

And more than the higher revenue stream, the overseas ABS-CBN operations are finally getting mainstream and establishment respect.

Last week, DirecTV, the biggest digital multichannel satellite TV service in the United States with 14.4 million subscribers, announced that it had agreed to beam the six-channel ABS-CBN bundle across the 50 states.

The commercial victory was followed by the declaration by no less than San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom on Friday, July 22, as ABS-CBN International Day.

Last year, the US operations of ABS-CBN generated P2.8 billion in revenues, as against the P10.8 billion churned by the Philippine operations.

And for the first half of 2005, gross US revenues are 36 percent higher year-on-year, said a beaming Raffy Lopez.

Proof of US operations' increasing financial muscle is that it flew from Manila over a hundred ABS-CBN stars and staffers for its Los Angeles and San Francisco roadshows, housing and feeding them in fine hotels.

Even the offices are getting bigger.

The Burlingame, .California, headquarters, home to the North America operations, are transferring later this year to Redwood City, where ABS-CBN would have its own studio.

With the DirecTV tie-up, ABS-CBN would be freed from operating its US satellite venture to concentrate in providing programming content.

From being program recipients from the Philippines, the US subsidiary has started to reciprocate and now produce two shows, "Citizen Pinoy" and "Balitang Amerika," that are beamed to and aired in Manila.

At least four more shows are in the pipeline, including two 100-percent US-made teleserye series that should start airing in the home country by yearend.

(Tip: To support the growing US ventures, ABS-CBN Philippines plans to relocate 20-30 production and creative personnel, including writers, to California next year.)

Wanted: Mike and Mikey

THE ABS-CBN San Francisco news bureau has given topmost priority in tracking down Mike and Mikey Arroyo, but, except for a near miss, the famous father and son have so far managed to dodge the media.

According to the grapevine, a tipped-off ABS-CBN crew at one time arrived as the Arroyos were leaving a downtown restaurant, but were unable to film as Mikey pleaded with the Pinoy cameraman to respect the family's privacy.

The Arroyos have also managed to keep even their hideaway under the media radar, foiling ABS-CBN's plan to conduct a stakeout, admitted Regina Reyes, the network's North America news bureau chief.

Money-go-round

- AUTO Prominence, the ex-Audi dealer, is now being required by its Pasong Tamo landlord, the Limcaocos, to settle about P2.5 million in back leases in cash, instead of resorting to another exchange deal as the cash-strapped dealer had done in the past.
- BENCH opened a branch in Daly City's Serramonte Mall on Friday.

Heard through the grapevine

AFTER months of absence, newly retired Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura is flying home on Aug. 16, having completed a number of sessions at Stanford.

(Cocktales may be reached at cocktales_pdi@pldtdsl.net or at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com.)

PLDT firming up . . .

From page B1

ing due diligence," an informed source said.

Sources said that when Globe heard about ongoing discussions between PLDT and Bayantel, it set off a new round of talks with the Lopez phone unit.

Some, however, felt that the Lopez group was just using Globe's supposed interest to get a better deal.

"Remember this term, whipsawing, which was widely used in telecoms before. This is what Bayantel is doing, pitting PLDT and Globe against each other," said another source.

Bayantel is a subsidiary of Benpres Holdings Corp. The parent company said that Bayantel, along with other non-core interests like a stake in a tollway company and a hospital, had been up for sale.

PLDT's single-biggest owner, First Pacific Co. Ltd., has offered to buy Benpres' stake in Manila North Tollways Corp.

Bayantel operates a fixed-line and data business in Metro Manila and select provincial areas. It has close to 300,000 fixed-line customers and about 4,000 subscribers to its high-speed Internet, It also operates a prepaid Internet service called Blast.

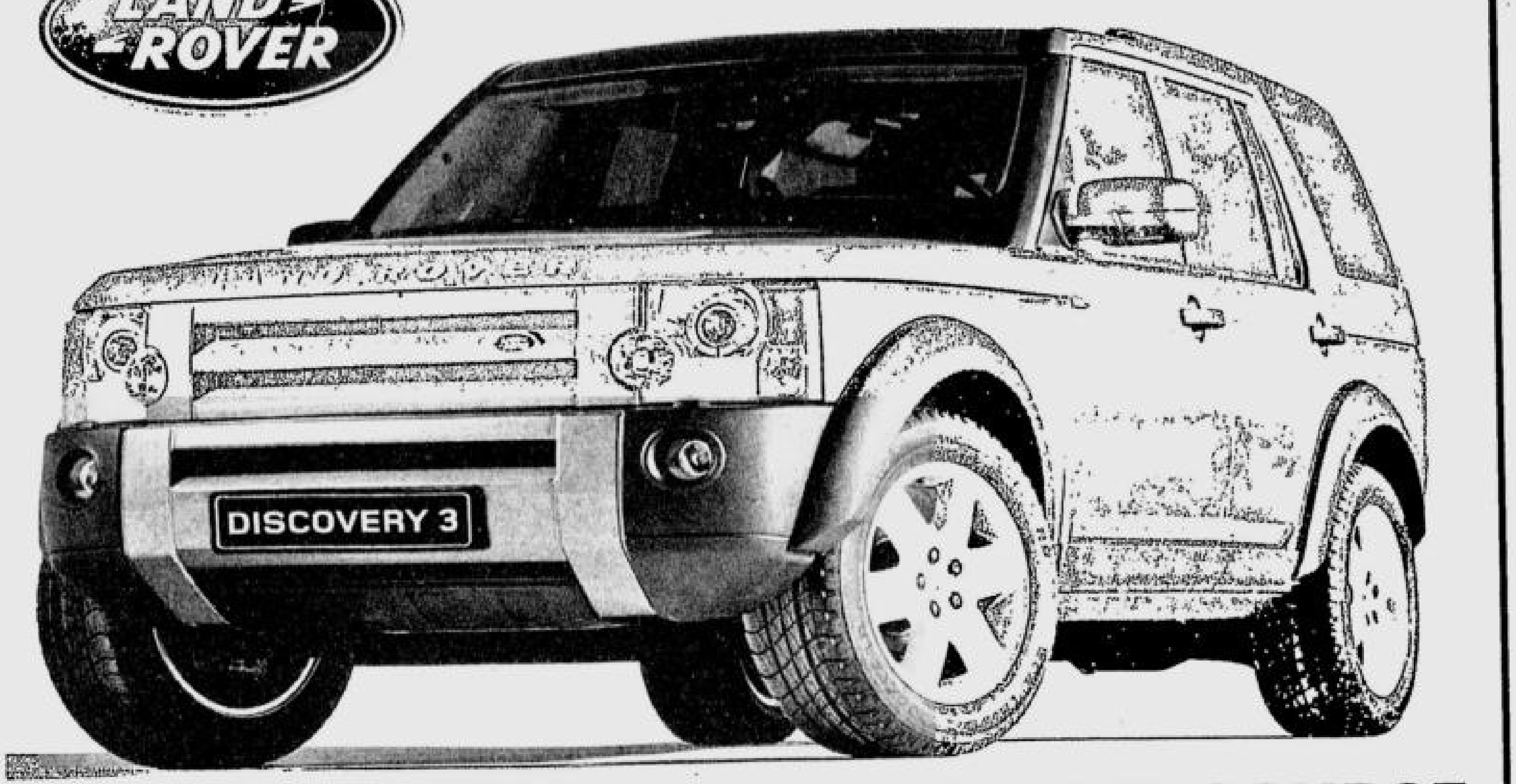
The company's data business, according to PLDT, would benefit the country's leading telecom firm.

Another telecom executive said that Globe could benefit from Bayantel's control of the National Digital Transmission Network, a telecom backbone that is 92-percent controlled by the Lopez firm.

Bayantel and its unit, Extelcom, also have several radio frequencies that any of the two telecom giants can use for the expansion of their wireless business.

PLDT chair Manuel Pangilinan earlier said that his company would take a look at Bayantel if the price was right.

"We've been buying in the provinces MaranawTel. We managed certain areas of Philcom and Paptelco in the provinces. Bayantel could be one investment we could look at if the price is right, and if it makes sense for the group," Pangilinan said during PLDT's stockholders' meeting in June.



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RP office may be spared by HP job cuts

By Alexander Villafania
Contributor

HEWLETT-PACKARD'S Philippine operations may not be affected at all if the expected job cuts by the tech company's restructuring plan pushes through, according to an HP Philippine official.

HP's worldwide restructuring plan is expected to hit 15,000 jobs worldwide, or 10 percent of its workforce, over the next six quarters. The plan was to slash annual operational cost by about $1.9 billion, which was initiated by HP's new CEO Mark Hurd.

"After a thorough review of our business, we have formulated a plan that will enable HP to begin delivering its full potential," Hurd said in a statement. "We can perform better—for our customers and partners, our employees and our shareholders—and we will."

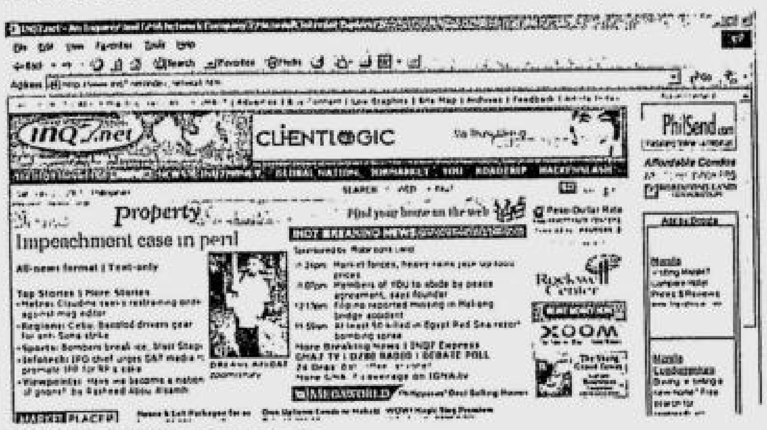
Speculation had run high that a major restructuring had been in the works since Hurd took over at HP. Hurd, the former CEO of NCR Corp., built a reputation for restoring NCR into a money-making machine through cost-cutting.

HP Philippines Corporate Marketing Manager Nikka Singson-Abes told Infotech that HP Philippines is still waiting for official word from HP headquarters in the United States regarding any restructuring plans as well as any job cuts.

However, she said the Philippines is still a small operation for HP and might not even need to experience job cuts.

"The Philippines remains to be a relatively small operation for HP so we might not be hit at all," Abes said.

Abes said they currently have 567 regular employees in HP Philippines, which was higher than the previous month when they had 528 employees. Abes added that their US headquarters usually left out HP Philippines during major job slashing attempts, except when HP merged with rival Compaq in 2002.



AWARD-WINNING website

INQ7.net tech section sweeps media awards

THE INFOTECH section of INQ7.net swept this year's annual Department of Science and Technology (DOST) media awards, winning both the professional category and institutional award for online media.

INQ7.net is the online news portal established under a joint venture of the Philippine Daily Inquirer and GMA Network Inc.

Infotech reporter Alex Villafania bagged this year's individual-professional category for online media for 2005, succeeding colleague Erwin Oliva who was elevated to the Hall of Fame after winning three straight years in the same category.

INQ7.net also bested other online publications, winning the institutional award for online media for the second straight year.

Meanwhile, science veteran writer Lyn Resurreccion of Today (now known as Manila Standard Today) won the professional category for print media. Today newspaper also bagged the institutional award for the same category.

Radio host Margie Ablaza of "Journey to Discovery" program aired over dzEM won the professional award for radio, while her station secured the institutional award.

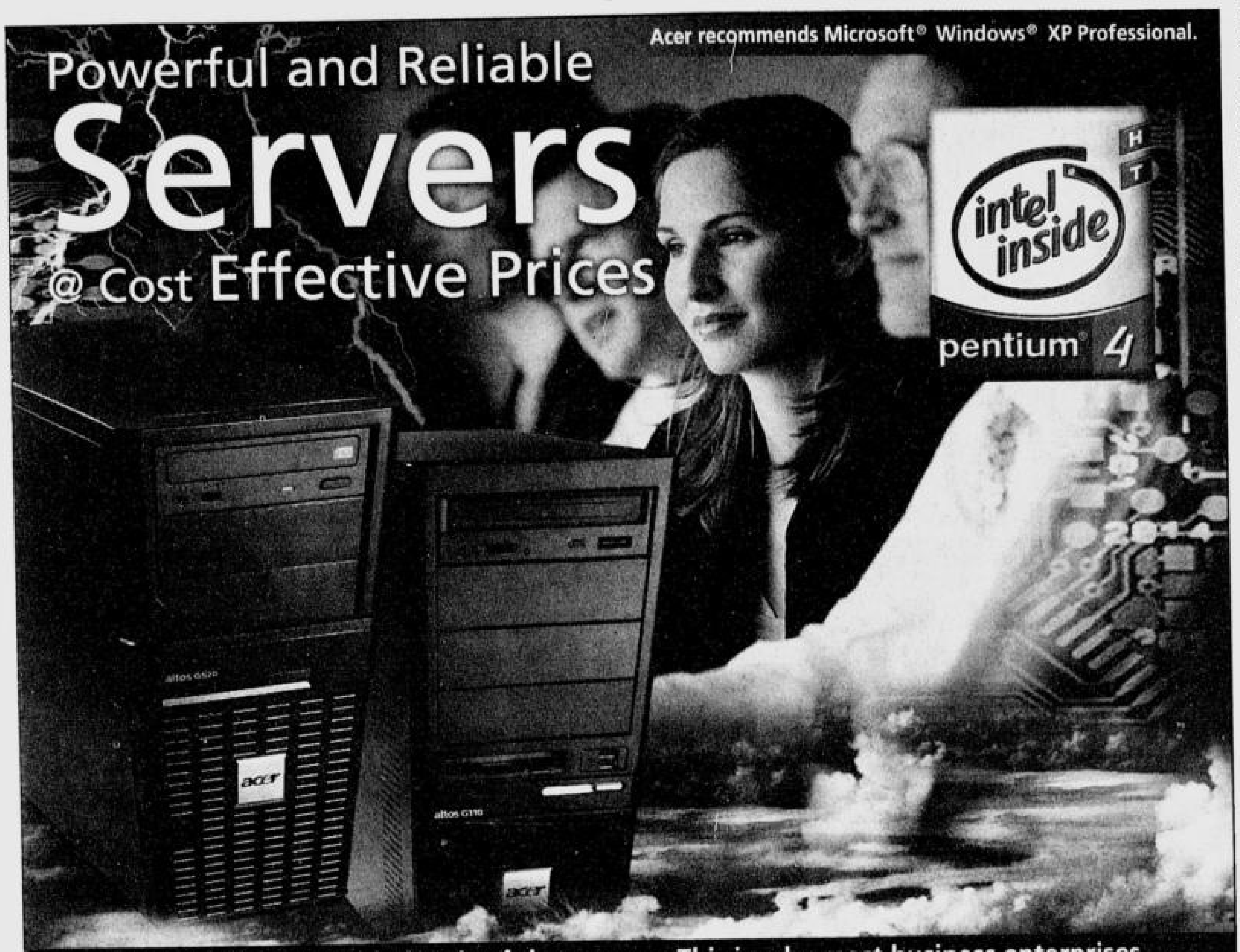
For this year, the DOST Media Awards also gave special citations to INQUIRER health and science columnist Queena Lee-Chua and Louie Belmonte as "Best Science and Technology Writer."

Each category winner received a cash prize of P50,000 and a plaque, while institutional winners received a specially designed trophy. Chua and Belmonte received P25,000 each.

Apart from Oliva, the other Hall of Fame awardees were Zac Sarian of Manila Bulletin, Divine Reyes of radio station DWAN, and Mayette Camacho of TV channel 13 who also received plaques.

This year's board of judges represented the academe and the industry.

Dr. Georgina Encanto, member of the University of the Philippines board of regents and the UP College of Mass Communications was chair of the board of judges. Other members were Reynaldo Hulog, executive director of the Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster ng Pilipinas; Betty-Lou Pereña, director for planning and research of the Philippine Information Agency; Jose Pavia, executive director of the Philippine Press Institute; and Marcy Ballasteros, professor of the Asian Institute of Journalism and Communication.



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PAL, Air Philippines to expand Asian routes

Tourism program fuels local carriers' growth

By Clarissa S. Batino

PHILIPPINE Airlines and Air Philippines Corp. are expanding their routes in Asia to cash in on the country's improving tourism industry particularly among the Chinese and South Koreans.

PAL president Jaime Bautista said the flag carrier would launch flights to Beijing in November.

"We plan to fly three times a week to Beijing starting November. The original timetable for this route is March 2006 but we advanced it because of the improving tourism picture," Bautista said in an interview.

Air Philippines, the low-cost carrier also controlled by taipan Lucio Tan, will start its twice-a-week charter flights to Cheongju, South Korea, today.

Leah Sison, spokesperson for Air Philippines, said that Cheongju would be the third South Korean destination for the company. The first two were Daegu and Kwangju.

Flights to Cheongju will take off regularly every Monday and Friday.

Sison said the Korean flights complement the airline's operations in Canton and Shenzhen in China. Air Philippines uses a 118-seater Boeing 737-200 for the regional trips.

Local carriers said they aligned their overseas operations with the government's tourism campaign. The country's four major tourism markets are the United States, Japan, China and South Korea.

Gokongwei's Cebu Air Pacific is mulling over its maiden flight to the United States in two years. By October, Cebu Pacific will be flying to Osaka in Japan. Its general manager, Danilo Mojica, said the Indonesia and Vietnam routes were also being studied.

The United States and Japan are the two biggest sources of tourist arrivals while China and Korea are catching up.

In the first quarter, there was a 40-percent increase in South Korean visitors and a 105-percent jump in arrivals from China. Tourism from Japan grew by only 7.8 percent.

State of the nation: An authoritative view

NO FREE LUNCH

Cielito F. Habito

THE WORLD Bank recently released one of the more authoritative analyses of our country's continuing development challenges in the document titled "Philippines: From Short Term Growth to Sustained Development." While I am not in complete agreement with all of the paper's analyses, the document captures most of the development issues confronting the nation quite well. More importantly, it supports its observations and analyses with ample data and references to the development literature.

Productivity lag

The paper's analysis of the Philippines' long-term development perspective highlights what many of us already know, i.e. that our country's performance has fallen well short of our neighbors over the past decades. Our productivity, in particular, compares rather poorly with others. Output per Filipino worker grew by only about 1 percent a year over the last 43 years (1960-2003). In contrast, our neighbors averaged 4.4 percent, and all developing countries of the world combined averaged 1.4 percent. Thus, while output per Filipino worker rose by 50 percent through those four decades, it grew 450 percent, or nine times faster, elsewhere in East Asia. While our neighbors' growth mostly came from rising investment and productivity, ours came mostly from consumption, making up 85 percent of our average growth since 1990. The contribution of growth in physical capital to our overall economic growth was only a third of that in other East Asian economies. And while East Asia experienced an average 1.4-percent annual growth in total factor productivity (TFP) in the last 40 years, our own average annual TFP growth was actually negative in the same period!

Poor investment climate

The above trends trace to a large extent to the way the foreign investment surge that swept

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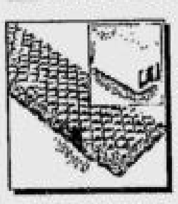

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SEC mulls over sanctions on 5 more pre-need firms

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission (SEC) is mulling over possible sanctions on five more pre-need firms for failure to comply with reportorial requirements, sources told the INQUIRER.

AMA Plans was cited for its failure to submit its 2004 actuarial valuation report and audited financial statement. It was also assessed penalties.

Sources at AMA Plans, however, said the company had informed the SEC that it would submit the pertinent reports by July 31.

AMA explained that personnel changes in its actuarial department caused the delays in the filing of its reports.

CAP Pension was also listed for its failure to submit audited financial statements.

Platinum Plans, which has sought court protection while it goes through its rehabilitation program, was cited for its trust fund deficiency, among others.

Platinum Plans said it was still working on dividing the property it had agreed to transfer to its trust fund.

Sources in the company added that Platinum was trying to secure funding for checks that were supposed to be deposited to its trust fund.

The SEC also called the attention of Primanila Plans for not depositing P2.8 million in its trust fund as of May.

Sources at the pre-need firm said it was still waiting for the report of its actuary that will determine how much it needs to deposit in its trust fund.

Primanila claims it has no trust fund deficiency.

Pryce Plans, on the other hand, was alerted to its non- compliance with an approved funding scheme and lack of financial statements.

Sources in the company, however, said that it used the trust fund contribution to pay plan holders as the claims were made during enrollment in May and June.

It said it was currently working on complying with the SEC's requirements.

The SEC earlier cited embattled College Assurance Plan Philippines Inc. for seven violations of reportorial requirements.

Palace backs tariff cut

By Ronnel W. Domingo

MALACAÑANG has upheld a previous decision to cut the tariffs on petrochemical imports from within Southeast Asia to 5 percent, from a range of 7 to 10 percent, according to a government source.

The source, who is privy to the matter, said the move in effect denied a petition from midstream petrochemical firms who asked that tariffs be kept at 7-10 percent.

In September last year, the Association of Petrochemical Manufacturers of the Philippines asked the government to keep tariffs on petrochemical imports from Southeast Asia to between 7 percent and 10 percent up to 2010 to give time for the development of the local upstream sector.

"The Cabinet-level Committee on Tariffs and Related Matters gave consideration to the downstream industry and the end-consumers," the official explained.

Slashing tariffs would mean local manufacturers of plastics products would benefit from lower prices of imported raw materials.

This would, in turn, lead to lower prices of plastic products for consumers.

Still, the government source said the CTRM had agreed that tariff levels would go back to 7-10 percent when the local industry achieves naphtha cracking capabilities.

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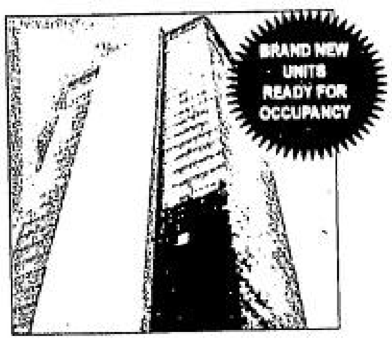

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UCPB 1009 B - CONDO UNIT
L.A 98.43sqm (VARIOUS)
Palm Tower, St. Paul St., San Antonio
Minimum Bid Price: P 2,847,156.00

UCPB 1012 A - PARKING SLOT
F.A 12sqm (VARIOUS)
Bitunore Condo, Aguirre St., Legaspi Vil
Minimum Bid Price: P 446,000.00

MANDALUYONG

UCPB 1014 - PENTHOUSE
F.A. 125sqm
ARK Condo Sierra Madre St.
Minimum Bid Price: P 2,399,000.00

UCPB 1015 A - PARKING SLOT
F.A 10.25sqm (VARIOUS)
ARK Condo Sierra Madre St.
Minimum Bid Price: P 224,000.00

UCPB 1015 B - PARKING SLOT
F.A 12.50sqm (VARIOUS)
ARK Condo Sierra Madre St.
Minimum Bid Price: P 156,000.00

MARIKINA

UCPB 1015 C - RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A. 100sqm
Dao St., Marikina Heights
Minimum Bid Price: P 240,000.00

PASAY

UCPB 1016 - 2 STORY RSDL BLDG
L.A. 113.33sqm
along Leveriza St., San Jose
Minimum Bid Price: P 1,900,000.00

UCPB 1016 A - RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A 1,132m
Brgy. Kaybulak
Minimum Bid Price: P 400,000.00

PARANAQUE

UCPB 1017 - COMMERCIAL BLDG
L.A. 1,671sqm w/ WARE HOUSE
East Service Rd., San Martin De Porres
Minimum Bid Price: P 37,310,000.00

UCPB 1018 - CONDO UNIT
F.A. 144.70sqm W/ PARKING
Unit 908 9th fr., Chateau de Baie Condo
Minimum Bid Price: P 3,220,000.00

UCPB 1019 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 553.45sqm
20-A Jose Abad Santos, Bayview Vill.
Minimum Bid Price: P 6,376,000.00

QUEZON CITY

UCPB 1025 - RSDL W/ IMPRVMT
L.A. 80sqm
Jade St., Silverland Subd., Tandang Sora
Minimum Bid Price: P 2,043,000.00

UCPB 1032 - CONDO UNIT
F.A. 85.46sqm (VARIOUS)
Jade Place Condo, Visayas Ave.
Minimum Bid Price: P 2,240,000.00

UCPB 1033 - CONDO UNIT
F.A. 62.90sqm
Adelina 2, Condominium Columbia
Minimum Bid Price: P 1,224,000.00

UCPB 1035 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 586sqm, F.A 562sqm
44 Zaragosa St., Araneta Village
Minimum Bid Price: P 6,574,750.00

PASIG

UCPB 1039 A - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 832sqm
Red Palm St., Valle Verde IV
Minimum Bid Price: P 22,480,000.00

UCPB 1040 - CONDO UNIT
L.A. 215.2sqm
Renaissance 3000
Minimum Bid Price: P 6,310,000.00

ANTIPOLO

UCPB 1043 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A. 834sqm
Salford St., Town & Country Estates
Minimum Bid Price: P 2,536,000.00

UCPB 1043 A - RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A. 243sqm
Cottonwoods Height Subdivision
Minimum Bid Price: P 738,720.00

UCPB 1043 B - RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A. 459sqm
Cottonwoods Height Subdivision
Minimum Bid Price: P 1,395,360.00

UCPB 1046 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A. 678sqm (VARIOUS)
Parkridge Executive Village Bo. Mayamot
Minimum Bid Price: P 705,000.00

UCPB 1047 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A. 1,151sqm
Town & Country Estates Bo Mayamot
Minimum Bid Price: P 3,499,000.00

UCPB 1048 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A. 1,145sqm
Town & Country Estates Bo Mayamot
Minimum Bid Price: P 3,480,000.00

UCPB 1048 A - RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A. 195sqm
Hills of Mala Alta Subdivision
Minimum Bid Price: P 546,000.00

UCPB 1048 B - RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A. 357sqm
Hills of Mala Alta Subdivision
Minimum Bid Price: P 999,600.00

UCPB 1049 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A. 1,004sqm
Brgy. Rd. Brgy. May - Iba Teresa
Minimum Bid Price: P 1,384,000.00

UCPB 1051 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A. 662sqm
Parkridge Estates, Bo. Mayamot
Minimum Bid Price: P 1,332,000.00

UCPB 1052 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A 512sqm
Parkridge Estates, Bo. Mayamot
Minimum Bid Price: P 1,024,000.00

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UCPB 1053 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A. 55.50sqm
L4 B8 La Mar Subd., Brgy. Gitnang Bayan
Minimum Bid Price: P 140,000.00

UCPB 1055 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 240 sqm, F.A 2087sqm
Williamburg St., Richmond Subd.,
Angono
Minimum Bid Price: P 1,512,000.00

UCPB 1056 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A. 204sqm
Village East III, Darangan, Binangonan
Minimum Bid Price: P 326,000.00

UCPB 1057 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A. 204sqm
Village East III, Darangan, Binangonan
Minimum Bid Price: P 326,000.00

BULACAN

UCPB 1060 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 209sqm
Avocado St., Area F., Bo. Sapang Palay
Minimum Bid Price: P 320,000.00

UCPB 1061 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A. 161sqm
Opel St., Villacor Vil., Bo. Langka
Meycauayan
Minimum Bid Price: P 2,560,000.00

UCPB 1062 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A. 221sqm
3rd St., Bo. Fatima, Sapang Palay
Minimum Bid Price: P 320,000.00

UCPB 1064 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A. 297sqm
L1 B58 Ilang-ilang, Area C, Sapang Palay
Minimum Bid Price: P 480,000.00

UCPB 1065 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A 523sqm
Area A, Sapang Palay, SJDM
Minimum Bid Price: P 2,400,000.00

UCPB 1066 - COMML w/ IMPRVMT
L.A. 347sqm
L20 B27 Assumption Rd., Area C
Sapang Palay
Minimum Bid Price: P 489,000.00

CAVITE

UCPB 1067 - CONDOTEL
L.A 162.88sqm
Southwoods Villa, Carmona
Minimum Bid Price: P 4,243,000.00

UCPB 1067 A - RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A. 1,000sqm
Uniwide Costal City Subd., Naic
Minimum Bid Price: P 2,500,000.00

UCPB 1067 B - RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A. 2,090sqm
Uniwide Costal City Subd., Naic
Minimum Bid Price: P 5,225,000.00

UCPB 1069 - COMMERCIAL LOT
L.A 4,899sqm
Macaria Business Center, Bo. Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price: P 35,993,000.00

UCPB 1070 - COMMERCIAL LOT
L.A 3,324sqm
Macaria Business Center, Bo. Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price: P 23,933,000.00

UCPB 1071 - CONDOTEL/RESORT
F.A 71sqm
Vista De Loro Heights Puerto Azul
Minimum Bid Price: P 1,496,000.00

UCPB 1072 - INDUSTRIAL LOT
L.A 7,078sqm
Bo. Niog II, Bacoor
Minimum Bid Price: P 5,268,000.00

UCPB 1073 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A 486sqm (VARIOUS)
Manila Southwoods, Carmona
Minimum Bid Price: P 1,944,000.00

UCPB 1073 A - RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A 200sqm (VARIOUS)
Town & Country Dasmariños
Minimum Bid Price: P 400,000.00

UCPB 1073 B - RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A 436sqm (VARIOUS)
Town & Country Dasmariñas
Minimum Bid Price: P 1,090,000.00

BINAN/ SAN PEDRO & STA ROSA

UCPB 1077 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A 150sqm, Verezia
cor.Verona, Romanville, Sta Rosa
Minimum Bid Price: P 445,000.00

UCPB 1078 A - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 140sqm F.A 75.5sqm
Casablanca, Ciudad Grande, Sta. Rosa
Minimum Bid Price: P 700,000.00

LAGUNA

UCPB 1079 - RSDL LOT
L.A. 249sqm (L10 Blk8)
Richwood Park Village, San Pablo
Minimum Bid Price: P 486,795.00

UCPB 1080 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 300sqm F.A 210.6sqm
L17 B3 Richwood Park Vil., San
Pablo
Minimum Bid Price: P 1,826,500.00

UCPB 1080 A - RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A. 93sqm
Palacio Real Subd., Calamba
AT THE FOOT OF MT. MAKILING
Minimum Bid Price: P 173,000.00

UCPB 1080 B - RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A. 277sqm
Palacio Real Subd., Calamba
AT THE FOOT OF MT. MAKILING
Minimum Bid Price: P 635,000.00

UCPB 1081 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A. 60,000sqm
Barrio of Palasan, Mun of Sta Cruz
Minimum Bid Price: P 8,400,000.00

UCPB 1082 - 2 STRY RSDL BLDG
L.A. 200sqm F.A 206.84sqm
L6 B3, Marymount, Anos, Los Baños
Minimum Bid Price: P 1,732,300.00

UCPB 1083 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A. 458sqm
Ocampo Comp., Sta Clara Sur Pila
Minimum Bid Price: P 380,000.00

UCPB 1084 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A. 433sqm (2LOTS)
Molave cor. Yakal, Cardi Village,
San Pablo
Minimum Bid Price: P 1,050,000.00

UCPB 1085 - RSDL/COMML
L.A. 355sqm, along Nat'l.-Hi-way
Adelina Agn, Banca-Banca, Victoria.
Minimum Bid Price: P 5,060,000.00

TAGAYTAY

UCPB 1087 - VACANT LOT
L.A. 11,572sqm
Bo. Maharlika East, Tagaytay
Minimum Bid Price: P 16,800,000.00

UCPB 1092 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A 353sqm (VARIOUS)
Palmridge Pointe, Metro Tagaytay
Minimum Bid Price: P 734,240.00

UCPB 1093 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A 444sqm (VARIOUS)
Palmridge Pointe, Metro Tagaytay
Minimum Bid Price: P 815,960.00

BATANGAS

UCPB 1092 A - RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A 100sqm (VARIOUS)
Golden Homes Subdivision
Minimum Bid Price: P 100,878.32

UCPB 1092 B - RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A 170sqm (VARIOUS)
Golden Homes Subdivision
Minimum Bid Price: P 214,366.43

UCPB 1093 A - RSDL LOT
L.A 1,033sqm (VARIOUS)
Mt. Malarayat Residential Estate
Minimum Bid Price: P 3,274,021.19

UCPB 1093 B - RSDL LOT
L.A 2,258sqm (VARIOUS)
Mt. Malarayat Residential Estate
Minimum Bid Price: P 7,156,572.04

CAGAYAN

UCPB 1101 - COMML W/ IMPRVMNT
L.A. 4,106sqm
Luna St., Brgy. Ugac Sur, Tugegarao
Minimum Bid Price: P 27,165,000.00

PALAWAN

UCPB 1102 - COMML w/ IMPRVMT
L.A. 433sqm
Bo. San Miguel, Puerto Prinsesa
Minimum Bid Price: P 1,290,000.00

UCPB 1103 - RESORT
L.A. 2,672sqm
Tinguiban, Brgy. Sta. Monica
Minimum Bid Price: P 534,000.00

QUEZON PROVINCE

UCPB 1107 - RSDL W/ IMPRVMT
L.A. 75sqm BUNGALOW
Lot 5E-2 Rosemarie Comp., Brgy. 8
Minimum Bid Price: P 180,000.00

UCPB 1108 - RSDL W/ IMPRVMT
L.A. 124sqm
Mangosteen Place, Sta. Isabel Ph I
Minimum Bid Price: P 560,000.00

UCPB 1109 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A. 183sqm
Charity St., Rosario Village, Brgy. Iyam
Minimum Bid Price: P 350,000.00

UCPB 1110 - RSDL w/ IMPRVMT
L.A. 191sqm
Milagros St. Capitol Homesite Subd., Cotta
Minimum Bid Price: P 670,000.00

UCPB 1111 - RSDL w/ IMPRVMT
L.A. 374sqm
Loreto St., Capitol Homesite Subd
Cotta
Minimum Bid Price: P 1,716,000.00

UCPB 1112 - RSDL w/ IMPRVMT
L.A. 303sqm
L7 B17 Rosario Village, Brgy. Iyam
Minimum Bid Price: P 570,000.00

UCPB 1113 - COMMERCIAL LOT
L.A. 811sqm
M.L Quezon & C.O Reyes St.
Poblacion Atimonan
Minimum Bid Price: P 2,600,000.00

UCPB 1116 - COMML W/IMPRVMNT
L.A. 500sqm 3 STRY BLDG
Nadres cor. Salazar St., Brgy.
Labangan, Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price: P 15,500,000.00

UCPB 1117 - COMMERCIAL LOT
L.A 147sqm
Enriquez St., Poblacion, Lucena
Minimum Bid Price: P 1,700,000.00

UCPB 1118 - COMMERCIAL LOT
L.A. 1,508 sqm
National Road, Bo. Iyam, Lucena
Minimum Bid Price: P 4,475,250.00

UCPB 1119 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A. 1,147sqm
San Isidro Subd. Bo. Gulang-gulang
Lucena
Minimum Bid Price: CALL US

UCPB 1120 - RSDL W/ IMPRVMT
L.A. 266sqm
San Jose St., Marilag Comp., Gulang
Minimum Bid Price: P 1,290,000.00

UCPB 1121 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 360sqm
19 Bolivia St., Betterliving Subd.,
Isabang
Minimum Bid Price: P 1,340,000.00

BATAAN

UCPB 1122 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A 300sqm, F.A 189sqm
Halcon St., Mt View Subdivision,
Bo. Cabcaban, Mariveles.
Minimum Bid Price: P 1,394,000.00

TARLAC

UCPB 1124 - POULTRY FARM
L.A 43,698 sqm. (5 Poultry House)
Bo. Rd., Bo Sta. Ines West, Sta.
Ignecia
Minimum Bid Price: P 1,690,000.00

UCPB 1128 - RSDL W/ IMPRVMT
L.A. 309sqm
Avocado St., Brgy. Sto. Domingo II,
Capas
Minimum Bid Price: P 180,000.00

UCPB 1129 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A. 1,379sqm
Romulo Highway (Brgy. Tibag)
Minimum Bid Price: P 2,040,000.00

CAMARINES SUR/ NORTE

UCPB 1134 - AGRI - LAND
L.A. 10,074sqm
Pasacao Pamplona Rd., Tambo,
Pamplona
Minimum Bid Price: P 1,700,000.00

ALBAY

UCPB 1140 - COMML & RSDL BLDG
L.A. 558sqm
Sevel Village Subd., Daraga
Minimum Bid Price: P 2,300,000.00

UCPB 1141 - RSDL W/ IMPRVMT
L.A. 181sqm
Calleya St., Velasco Subd., Daraga
Minimum Bid Price: P 694,450.00

LEGASPI

UCPB 1142 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 725sqm
Sunrise Subd., Cruzada
Minimum Bid Price: P 2,100,000.00

UCPB 1143 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A. 858sqm
Nat'l Rd., Brgy. Arimbay
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UCPB 1146 - SUBDIVISION LOTS
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UCPB 1147 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 1,757sqm
Bachiller's Comp., Bagumbayan
Minimum Bid Price: P 1,100,000.00

NAGA

UCPB 1155 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A. 4,455sqm
Isarog Ave., Brgy. Tinago
Minimum Bid Price: P 7,200,000.00

UCPB 1156 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 847sqm
Santol St., Liboton, Naga City
Minimum Bid Price: P 935,000.00

DAVAO CITY

UCPB 1057 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A 173sqm (VARIOUS)
Tierra Solanega Subdivision
Minimum Bid Price: P 467,100.00

UCPB 1058 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A 608sqm (VARIOUS)
Tierra Solanega Subdivision
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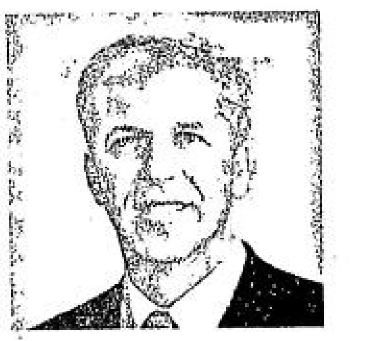

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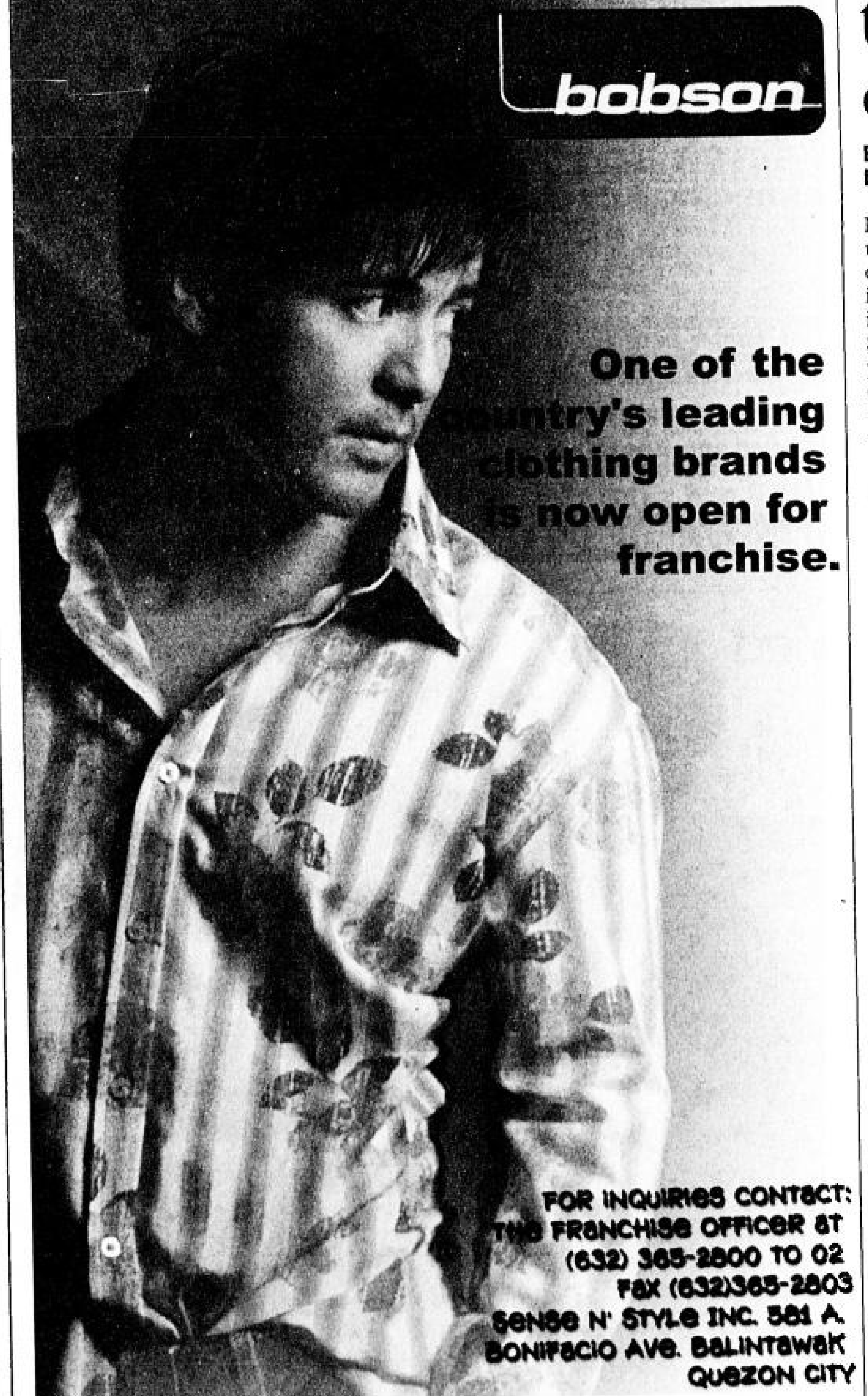
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BOI, Peza OK projects worth P42B

By Ronnel W. Domingo

INVESTMENTS approved by the Board of Investments and the Philippine Economic Zone Authority in May amounted to P42.2 billion involving 53 projects, the Department of Trade and Industry said.

Trade Undersecretary Elmer Hernandez said this was 1,266 percent higher than year-ago's P3.09 billion worth of projects.

Of the amount, P38.2 billion was committed by local investors while foreign firms accounted for only P3.96 billion of the registered investments.

In May last year, P1.68 billion of the amount came from local firms and P1.4 billion from foreign investors.

Hernandez said the manufacturing sector got 92 percent of the investment commitments or P36.7 billion in May. This represented an improvement of 8,500 percent from year-ago level.

The biggest projects approved in May was PNOC Petrochemical Development Corp.'s P34.83-billion naphtha cracker project, which would produce the polymers needed by the downstream plastics industry.

TVI Resource Development's P563-million exploration, mining and gold/silver processing venture came in next.

Investors committed to infuse P1.01 billion in information technology sector.

As for the first five months, investments registered reached P108.16 billion or 22.3 percent lower than the P139.25 billion in the same period last year.

Hernandez said the five-month figure last year was higher due to GNPower Ltd.'s project involving the setting up of a P96.5-billion liquefied natural gas (LNG) depot and power plant complex.

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Those absurd opinion surveys

QUESTIONS OF POLICIES

Honesto C. General

SOCIAL Weather Stations and Pulse Asia have been cranking out the results of their absurd opinion surveys at almost breakneck speed over the past few weeks.

A survey is based on the valid premise that you do not have to take a whole bowlful to find out how a soup tastes. A spoonful is quite enough to do the job. But a tiny drop at the tip of your tongue just won't do.

An SWS press release on July 15 said: "Over July 12-14, a team of 13 field staff in the SWS telephone laboratory completed 608 interviews distributed as follows: Quezon City 133, Manila 96, Caloocan 73, Pasig 32, Makati 30, Valenzuela 29, Las Piñas 29, Taguig 28, Parañaque 27, Marikina 24, Muntinlupa 23, Malabon 14, San Juan 6, and Pateros 3."

The PLDT residential directory lists about 500,000 landline phones. The 608 interviews are a minuscule 0.12 percent of the total residential landlines. Or, one out of roughly 822 residential landline owners.

The 608 interviews do not even qualify as a tiny drop of soup. Three phone calls to Pateros, six to San Juan and 14 to Malabon will not even qualify as a sniff of the soup.

It is then downright absurd to consider the results as the "dominant public reaction" of Metro Manila, as SWS claims.

Pulse Asia's press release of July 15 is even more ludicrous. The number of interviews is a deep, dark secret. You are simply told that the total interviews are 100 percent. Then, the percentage breakdown follows.

In Table 1 on poverty self-rating, 4 percent considered themselves very poor, 44 percent poor, 24 percent on the line, and 28 well off/wealthy. I can fake 100 interviews: 4 squatters at the railway line in Paco, 44 in the squatter colony a few blocks from my house, and 28 in Forbes Park. The remaining 24 can be presumed to be on the line. It is all fakery, and nobody will be the wiser.

In Chart 3 on the performance rating of President Arroyo, and Chart 4 on the trust rating, not only is the number of persons polled kept secret, the exact questions asked are not spelled out. The details should be complete so that a chart can stand by itself. The reader need not have to call the author to explain.

The charts display the quarterly ratings from March 2001 to July 2005. The results are so erratic as to give the distinct impression that the people in the Metro Manila region are so whimsical. I cannot accept this. Iam forced to conclude that the charts are meaningless.

Finally, SWS said that the telephone survey was "non-commissioned," meaning SWS did it for charity. No wonder the sample was miniscule. If someone had commissioned the survey, the coverage might have been wider, and the results credible—and SWS might have made a nifty profit.

Pulse Asia does not say whether the surveys were commissioned or not. Another deep, dark secret.

Why is it important that the survey should specify who commissioned it? Because whoever commissioned the survey puts a distinct color on it. For example, it makes a lot of difference if Malacañang or the opposition commissions a survey.

Which reminds me that a statistician is "a man who draws a mathematically precise line from an unwarranted assumption to a foregone conclusion."

In the end, I found the SWS and Pulse Asia surveys not worth the recycled paper I printed them on, and which I just sent through the shredder.

PERLA INSURANCE
PERLA COMPAÑIA DE SEGUROS, INC
2/F Perla Compañia de Seguros Mansion
117 Carlos Palanca Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City
Synopsis of Annual Statement
As of 31 December 2004

ADMITTED ASSETS

Bonds	P	209,958,976.92
Investment in Treasury Bills		76,670,000.00
Investment in Stocks		53,601,366.43
Real Estate		25,907,261.46
Security Fund		140,167.00
Other Investments		1,160,000.00
Cash on Hand and in Banks		152,125,062.51
Premiums Receivable		3,690,234.84
Premiums Due From Ceding Companies		25,910.17
Premiums Reserve Withheld by Ceding Companies		222,276.37
Reinsurance Recoverable on Losses		603,540.00
Accrued Investment Income		7,422,201.75
Total Admitted Assets	P	611,615,797.45

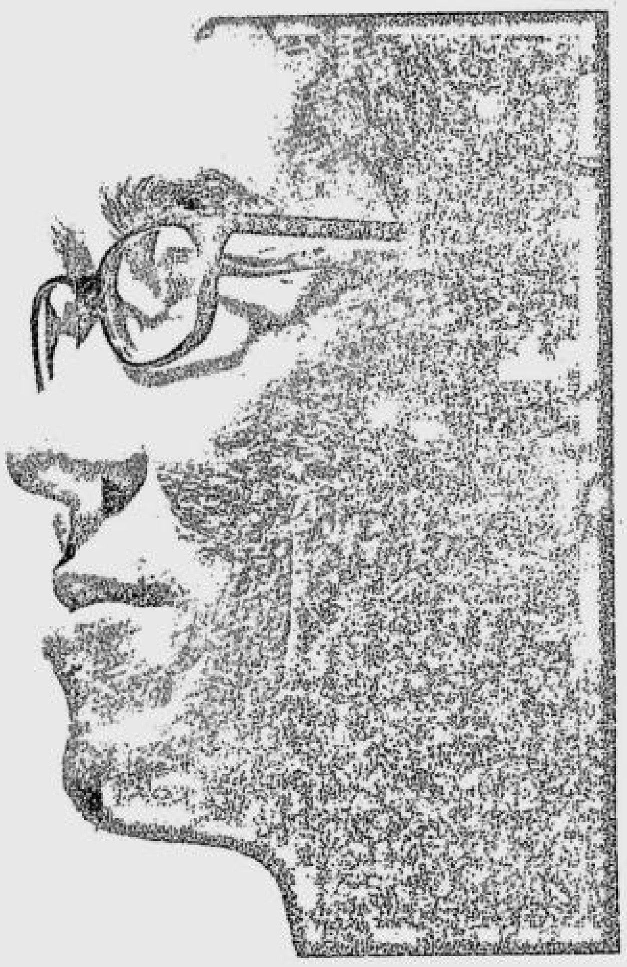
LIABILITIES

Losses and Claims Payable	P	68,600,953.70
Loss Adjustment Expenses Payable		4,640,220.00
Reserve for Unearned Premiums		53,740,116.11
Catastrophe Loss Reserve		83,073.44
Premiums Due to Reinsurers		6,375,596.36
Premiums Reserve Withheld for Reinsurers		3,076,074.28
Commissions Payable		1,007,666.52
Taxes Payable		3,813,973.66
Unearned Bond Discount		2,896,132.06
Other Liabilities		1,137,346.10
Total Liabilities	P	145,371,142.11

STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY

Capital Stock Paid-Up	P	100,000,000.00		
Contributed Surplus		33,000.00		
Special Surplus Funds				
Fluctuation Reserve - Investment in Stocks		606,031.17		
Fluctuation Reserve - Investment in Bonds		28,876,309.34		
Retained Earnings		336,729,314.83		
Total Stockholders' Equity			P	466,244,655.34
Total Liabilities & Stockholders' Equity			P	611,615,797.45

(This synopsis, prepared from the 2004 Annual Statement, approved by the Insurance Commissioner is published pursuant to Section 225 of the Insurance Code of 1978, as amended)



THE RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE: A GUIDE FOR THE FEARLESS.

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VERITAS NOW AVAILABLE FROM symantec.

Auto loans extended by banks up 16% in March

Local demand for new vehicle models getting stronger

By Doris C. Dumlao

CAR FINANCING made available by banks rose by 16.1 percent as of end-March from year ago, indicating the continued strengthening of the vehicle market.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas said that as of end-March, the total auto loans extended by universal, commercial banks and thrift banks reached P55.3 billion, up from P47.7 billion last year. The first quarter figure was also 10.8 percent better than the level in the previous quarter.

The ratio of total auto loans to the banking system's total portfolio, exclusive of interbank loans, expanded to 3.2 percent from 2.9 percent a year ago.

Thrift banks, mainly subsidiaries or affiliates of commercial banks, accounted for 70.5 percent share of the total auto loans. Universal and commercial banks lent out about a third of the total car financing portfolio.

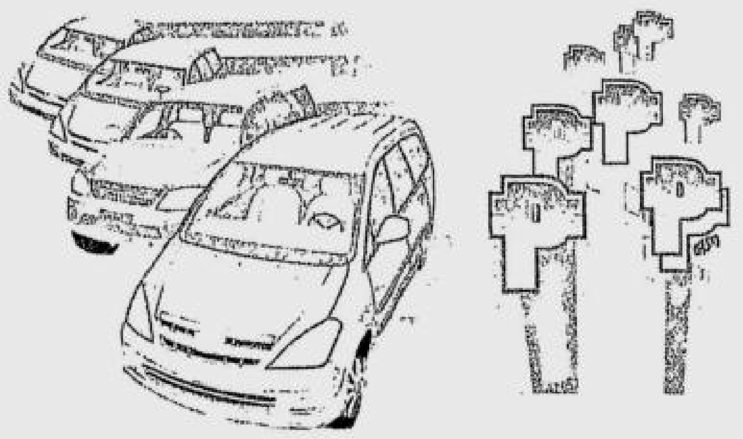
In the meantime, the ratio of past due auto loans to the banking system's total auto loan portfolio continued to improve to 5.9 percent from 6.3 percent a year ago and 6 percent a quarter ago.

The ratio of past due auto loans to total non-performing loans stood at 1.3 percent at end-March from last quarter's 1.1 percent and a year ago's 1 percent.

Alfonso Salcedo Jr., president of BPI Family Savings, said demand for auto loans was expected to continue to rise despite current political concerns.

Salcedo attributed this to the aggressive marketing campaign of local car manufacturers.

"They (vehicle assemblers) have been very aggressive in coming out with the new models. They have a lot of affordable models to choose from now," he said.



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Only until July 31, 2005.

Model**	Then	Now	Down Payment*	Monthly*
BMW 318i M Sport 2005 Imola Red	P2,950,000	P2,180,000	P654,000	P42,389
BMW 318i M Sport 2005 Imola Red	P2,950,000	P2,180,000	P654,000	P42,389
BMW 325i Exec. [illegible]	P3,500,000	P2,580,000	P774,000	P50,167
BMW 325i Exec. [illegible]	P3,500,000	P2,580,000	P774,000	P50,167
BMW 325i Exec. [illegible]	P3,500,000	P2,580,000	P774,000	P50,167
BMW 325i Exec. [illegible]	P3,200,000	P2,480,000	P744,000	P48,223

Model**	Then	Now	Down Payment*	Monthly*
BMW 318i Ed. 2004 Black Sapphire	P2,185,000	P1,800,000	P540,000	P35,000
BMW 318i Exec. 2004 Titanium Silver	P2,550,000	P2,100,000	P630,000	P40,833
BMW 318i M Sport [illegible]	P2,750,000	P2,000,000	P600,000	P38,889
BMW 318i M Sport [illegible]	P2,750,000	P2,000,000	P600,000	P38,889
BMW 318i M Sport [illegible]	P2,750,000	P2,000,000	P600,000	P38,889
BMW 325i Exec. [illegible]	P3,200,000	P2,480,000	P744,000	P48,223

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* Subject to bank's approval.
** Other models also available. 23 Executive Cars sold as of July 20, 2005.

Limited units remaining.

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. A3-563 Series of 2005

Equitable PCI BANK

Your Bank of Choice

July 22, 2005

JOINT STATEMENT OF SUPPORT

We, the major shareholders of Equitable PCI Bank, wish to assure our depositors, creditors, investors and the public in general, that we are fully supportive of the bank and its Management and Staff. The bank is operating as usual and is ready to address the banking requirements of its customers with the efficient service it has been known for. Management continues to exercise its authority which it has been authorized in the past. While we may have contrasting views on some shareholder issues which we are currently in the process of resolving, we remain united in our trust in the professionalism and competence of the bank's Management Team.

We believe that the bank is firmly focused on its objective of becoming "Your Bank of Choice"— the best bank to do business with.

We take this opportunity to thank all of you for your continued support and confidence.

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President and Chief Executive Officer
Social Security System

(Sgd.) **ANTONIO L. GO**
Go Family

(Sgd.) **ATTY. WINSTON F. GARCIA**
President and General Manager
Government Service Insurance System

(Sgd.) **ATTY. FERDINAND MARTIN G. ROMUALDEZ**
Trans Middle East Corp.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of July 22, 2005)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9	16,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	29.5	29.5	29	29	641,500
Bank of the Phil. Islands	50	50	49.5	50	365,700
China Banking Corp.	780	780	780	780	2,150
Citystate Savings Bank	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5	500
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.53	0.53	0.53	0.53	610,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	48	48	47	47.5	188,800
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	28	28	27	27	132,200
Philippine National Bank	46	48.5	46	48	122,800
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	11.5	12.5	11.5	12.5	130,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	29.5	29.5	29.5	29.5	5,000
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Bankard Inc.	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	50,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	2775	2775	2775	2775	750
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	38,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1990	1995	1990	1995	4,740
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	12.5	12.5	12.25	12.25	16,900
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	1.02	1.02	0.99	1.02	2,715,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	865	865	850	850	110
Ipeople Inc.	2.95	3	2.95	3	17,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.046	0.046	0.046	0.046	200,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.049	0.049	0.049	0.049	200,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	2.7	2.7	2.65	2.65	438,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1585	1610	1585	1605	113,010
Philweb Corp.	0.017	0.017	0.016	0.017	4,000,000
POWER, ENERGY & OTHER UTILITIES					
Manila Electric Co. A	14.5	14.5	14.25	14.25	66,800
Manila Electric Co. B	24.25	24.25	23.75	23.75	71,300
Manila Water Co. Inc.	6.9	6.9	6.7	6.8	3,777,000
Petron Corp.	3	3	2.9	2.95	352,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	7.8	7.9	7.7	7.8	2,305,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Holcim Philippines Inc.	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	121,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.3	3.4	3.3	3.4	351,000
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75	3,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	30	30	30	30	300
Jollibee Foods Corp.	31.5	31.5	30	30	111,100
Pancake House Inc.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	4,000
San Miguel Corp. A	62.5	64.5	62.5	64.5	302,300
San Miguel Corp. B	100	100	98	98	103,790
Vitarich Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	200,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Asia Amalgamated Holdings	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.085	200,000
Atok-Big Wedge Co. Inc.	5	5	5	5	4,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.008	0.008	0.0075	0.0075	14,000,000
Ayala Corp.	320	320	312.5	315	38,950
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	4.9	4.9	4.8	4.9	522,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.023	0.023	0.023	0.023	8,200,000
A. Soriano Corp.	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	140,000
APC Group Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	10,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	8,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.74	0.74	0.72	0.72	1,410,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	10,200
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.04	1.04	1	1.02	8,154,000
A Brown Company Inc.	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	30,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	1,420,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.235	0.235	0.235	0.235	1,870,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	2.36	2.42	2.36	2.4	4,568,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	2,000,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	6.9	6.9	6.6	6.7	1,211,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	43	43	42	42.5	388,700
Global Equities Inc.	0.0725	0.0725	0.0725	0.0725	1,000,000
Ionics Inc.	1.1	1.1	1.06	1.06	210,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	3.3	3.3	3.25	3.25	1,346,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.7	1.8	1.7	1.76	31,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.34	1.34	1.3	1.3	1,368,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	2,110,000
Polar Property Holdings	1.98	1.98	1.98	1.98	3,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.185	0.185	0.185	0.185	150,000
SM Investments Corp.	221	222	217	220	576,330
South China Resources Inc.	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65	100,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.165	0.165	0.165	0.165	200,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.125	0.13	0.125	0.125	1,220,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	600,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Macondray Plastics Inc.	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	2,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.97	0.97	0.93	0.94	5,960,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	410,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.26	1.26	1.22	1.26	845,000
Manila Jockey Club	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	16,000
Philippine Racing Club	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.4	50,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (PDR)	12.25	12.5	12.25	12.25	117,500
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	5,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series X	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	300
PLDT 10% Pref Series AA	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	14,800
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	8.1	8.2	8	8.2	24,743,000
Cityland Development Corp.	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	200,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.88	0.88	0.88	0.88	300,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.195	0.195	0.195	0.195	700,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.35	0.35	0.34	0.35	10,420,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.44	1.44	1.4	1.44	2,350,000
City & Land Developers	1.74	1.74	1.74	1.74	5,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	300,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25	10,000
SM Development Corp.	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	41,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.3	7.3	7.3	7.3	2,507,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.99	0.99	0.85	0.85	110,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	0.74	0.9	0.74	0.89	650,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	2,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	5	5	4.9	4.9	95,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.32	0.32	0.31	0.31	290,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.35	0.35	0.33	0.34	7,790,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.016	0.016	0.016	0.016	18,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.021	0.021	0.02	0.02	27,400,000
Omico Corp.	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	84,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.83	0.83	0.81	0.81	1,690,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.92	0.92	0.9	0.9	3,820,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	28.5	30	28.5	29.5	550,500
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	10,000
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	20,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	11,000,000
Pacifica	0.009	0.009	0.009	0.009	5,000,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	3	3	3	3	8,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.135	630,000

CURRENCIES

July 22, 2005 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.823588	1.000000	55.9040
Japan	Yen	0.007301	0.008865	0.4956
United Kingdom	Pound	1.433784	1.740900	97.3233
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.105889	0.128571	7.1876
Switzerland	Franc	0.639978	0.777061	43.4408
Canada	Dollar	0.674629	0.819135	45.7929
Singapore	Dollar	0.488892	0.593613	33.1853
Australia	Dollar	0.620078	0.752899	42.0901
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.184756	2.652731	148.2983
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.219611	0.266652	14.9069
Brunei	Dollar	0.487445	0.591856	33.0871
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000084	0.000102	0.0057
Thailand	Baht	0.019549	0.023736	1.3269
UAE	Dirham	0.224270	0.272309	15.2232
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.214200	67.8786
Argentina	Peso	0.287967	0.349650	19.5468
Brazil	Real	0.349008	0.423765	23.6902
Denmark	Kroner	0.133989	0.162689	9.0950
India	Rupee	0.018951	0.023010	1.2864
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.216745	0.263172	14.7124
Mexico	New Peso	0.077533	0.094140	5.2628
New Zealand	Dollar	0.553859	0.672495	37.5952
South Africa	Rand	0.123173	0.149557	8.3608
Korea	Won	0.000791	0.000960	0.0537
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.025826	0.031358	1.7530

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Canlubang Golf Club		450K
Canyon Woods	125K	
Capitol Hills "A"	80K	
Celebrity Sports Club	115K	
Club Filipino	90K	
Club Punta Fuego		400K
Eagleridge Golf Club "A"	100K	
Eagleridge Golf Club "B"	300K	
Eagleridge Golf Club "C"		280K
Forest Hills Golf Club (Individual)	100K	
Manila Golf Club "C"		please call
Manila Golf Club (Individual)		please call
Manila Polo Club	2.2M	please call
Manila Southwoods "A"		350K
Manila Southwoods "B"		580K
Mimosa C3	450K	
Mt. Malarayat "B"		200K
Mt. Malarayat "C"		280K
Quezon City Sports Club "A"	150K	130K
Rockwell Club	280K	
Sherwood Hills "A"	70K	
Splendido	please call	
Spa & Lodge		400K
Sta. Elena Golf Club "A"	1.2M	
Sta. Elena Golf Club "B"		1.4M
Subic Bay Yacht Club	100K	
Country Club at Tagaytay		350K
Tagaytay Higlands Golf	750K	
Tagaytay Midlands Golf	650K	
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Trading to track . . .

From page B1

or 3 percent. Leading the advance were blue chips PLDT, Ayala Corp., San Miguel, Ayala Land, Philippine National Bank, Globe Telecom, Holcim Philippines, SM Prime, ICTSI, Bank of the Philippine Islands, Filinvest Land, DMCI Holdings and Belle Corp.

Jose Vistan of AB Capital Securities said some investors cheered the move by Ms Arroyo to form a truth commission that will look into the allegations of election fraud.

"Some investors ... viewed (it) as a credible and acceptable means to resolve the political issue. However, the opposition viewed the move as a diversionary tactic. The opposition is calling for an impeachment process, which is also viewed as Ms Arroyo's chance to clear her name," Vistan said.

Vistan also noted the good news for the country's trade prospects after China answered criticisms from the United States and Europe that an undervalued yuan gave it an unfair trade advantage. It ended a decade-old peg to the dollar and said it would allow the yuan to fluctuate against a basket of currencies. *Elizabeth L. Sanchez*

Increase . . .

From page B2

This despite the suspension of the expanded value-added tax law.

The DOF also said earlier it intended to call for an across-the-board one-percent increase in all import duties, a move which was estimated to generate P14.6 billion a year in additional revenues.

"We are working on this contingency plan, but we don't want to convey the message that we are not pursuing the lifting of the suspension [of the expanded VAT law]," Teves said.

While the government can come up with other revenue-raising measures, finance officials said, none has so far been estimated to match the revenue potential of the expanded VAT law.

The expanded VAT law could generate as much as P105 billion a year in additional revenues.

The law expands the coverage of the VAT to include oil and electricity, among others.

It also gave the President the authority to raise the VAT rate from 10 to 12 percent next year.

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Per DTI NCR Permit # A3-594. Series of 2005.

To cut down on rice imports, DA chief tells Southern folk to turn to white corn

By Christine A. Gaylican

THE AMOUNT of rice the country imports yearly may be reduced by a third if the people of Visayas and Mindanao take to white corn, making it their staple.

Newly installed Agriculture Secretary Domingo F. Panganiban said that the people's initiative would enable the Philippines to attain rice self-sufficiency, and save on billions of pesos worth of rice imports.

Increasing consumption of white corn grits, which used to be the main staple in corn-producing provinces in the Southern Philippines, would ease the demand for rice stocks currently managed by the National Food Authority, Panganiban explained.

He said that expanding the areas planted to white corn by 100,000 hectares would lower prices at the farm gate and encourage higher consumption of the commodity, particularly in Cebu, Davao del Sur, Davao del Norte, North and South Cotabato, Zamboanga del Sur, Bukidnon, Misamis Oriental, Agusan del Norte, Agusan del Sur and parts of the Cagayan Valley in Luzon.

Panganiban said that reduced rice consumption would mean a cut in importation by at least 500,000 metric tons.

"There are 11 to 12 million people, who used to depend on white corn as their main staple," the DA chief said in an interview Friday. "However, the accumulating demand for the commodity for either feed and industrial manufacturing purposes pushed prices up and they opted to buy rice that is now cheaper."

The demand for white corn as raw material for corn oil, corn starch, corn flour and other industrial uses have tripled the price of the commodity at the farm gate during the late 1980s. Back then, the price of white corn ranged from P5 to P7 per kilo. Now, it averages P28 per kilo.

"The very high price of white corn grits ... now could be equated to two kilos of rice at the public market," he said. "We would want to cut the price by half."

He said that aside from increasing the areas planted to white corn, the agency proposed the use of high yielding corn varieties.

Panganiban estimated that the white corn program to be revived by the agency would yield at the most some 1.5 million metric tons of white corn.

Yellow corn production, which would be for feed and other food manufacturing purposes, is estimated to hit 4.5 million metric tons.

The DA estimates that the country's corn production this year may range from about 5.5 million to 5.6 million metric tons.

The current corn production estimate is lower than the initial projection of up to 5.8 million metric tons expected to be produced this year.

MOST PROMISING EXPORTER
BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. and Raul Boncan of the Monetary Boar
Paul Duncan, senior vice president of the Philippine Associated Smelting ar
Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas cited Pasar as "the most promising exporter of
of the highest FOB (freight-on-board) value of exports over the past three

No free lunch

From page B5

the region in the 70s and 80s largely passed us by. We gained some lost ground in the 1990s with our positive economic climate then, but after the Asian financial crisis and our own unsettled internal politics thereafter, we are again largely missing the boat. Statistics show that investments in 2005 have not only slowed down; they actually dropped. The World Bank paper observes that by most measures, the Philippine investment climate has deteriorated relative to other countries. While all three international rating agencies have been downgrading both our sovereign ratings and outlook since last year, our neighbors have been receiving ratings upgrades. This has significantly raised the borrowing cost for both our private firms and the government relative to our neighbors. Interest rates on Philippine borrowings abroad were more than 400 basis points (4 percentage points) over the benchmark US treasury bonds as of end-2004. In contrast, the spreads for China, Thailand and Malaysia were well under 100 basis points (1 percentage point). Our country risk rating has dramatically deteriorated in the last three years from 47 to 61 in the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) Country Risk Scoring System, while our neighbors either maintained or improved on theirs. The story is the same with our competitiveness ranking in the World Economic Forum Global Competitiveness Index. An Investment Climate Survey conducted jointly by the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank in 2004 revealed that 62 percent of firms think the Philippine business climate had either "sharply" or "moderately" declined.

Slow progress on poverty

Lack of productivity growth and investments have translated directly to lack of progress in overcoming poverty. Compared to our neighbors, we have been much slower in bringing down poverty. Between 1990 and 2000, the percentage of people earning less than $1 a day fell by 9 and 11 percentage points in Thailand and Indonesia, respectively, but fell only 5 percentage points in the Philippines. And even though average income (measured as GDP per person a year) of Filipinos exceeds that of Indonesians by over a third, poverty incidence is still higher in the Philippines.

Measures of income inequality also show us to be closer to Latin American countries than our own neighbors. Income of the richest one-fifth of the Filipino population is 12.4 times that of the poorest one-fifth, while the corresponding ratio is 11 times for Thailand, 7 for Malaysia, and only 4.4 for Sri Lanka. We were actually better off in 1988, when this rich-poor ratio was just 10 to 1, showing that inequality actually worsened in the Philippines through the 1990s. While recent government reports indicated some improvement in 2003, their veracity has been put to question by data inconsistencies pointed out by knowledgeable experts.

Leadership failure

The World Bank paper affirms yet another thing we already know: that weak governance and institutions lie at the heart of our perennial underperformance. Many of us had hoped that Edsa 2 would pave the way for an improvement on this score, only to find that we instead moved from bad to worse. Lack of principle-centered leadership and a government devoid of clear direction (vision), basic morale (inspiration) and teamwork (cohesion) can only lead us even farther away from the rest of the pack. Can we really expect to get better if top-level decisions are clearly driven by politics rather than by sound, unwavering principles? If the general mood in government offices is one wherein the top leadership is widely spoken of with disdain in hushed tones, by officials down to rank-and-file employees (Malacañang, it seems, has yet to wake up to this reality)? If basic unity, solidarity and teamwork within and among various units of government is missing (witness the ongoing blame-throwing, instead of cooperation, between BIR and DOJ on the tax evasion cases—I can almost hear the tax evaders laughing!)? And yet we are now told that the Cabinet will be left to work by themselves, when what they have sorely needed all along is an active and effective team captain (again, Malacañang misses the point!).

Can the state of the nation really get better under its current governance and leadership?

Comments welcome at chabito@ateneo.edu

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P46B readied for lending to priority sectors

d hand over a trophy to d Refining Corp. The the year," generating one ears.

By Doris C. Dumlao

DEVELOPMENT Bank of the Philippines will make available for relending to priority sectors P46.2 billion in official development assistance funds.

In a press briefing, DBP president Reynaldo David said that by the end of the year or early next year, a P14-billion industry support lending facility under a Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) would be made available.

This is a commercial loan facility for manufacturing, telecommunications, information technology, hospitals and schools," David said.

He said the bank would also tap P16 billion from the 27th Yen Loan Package for lending to infrastructure projects.

From the same yen loan package, the DBP will draw a P10-billion credit line for an environmental development program.

"Projected to be available in the first semester of 2006, this will be the third JBIC environment project. This will have an expanded scope to include new initiatives such as forest-based development, eco-tourism, watershed management, water supply resources, environmental relocation," David said.

The DBP has already made available for relending a 25-million euro facility from the European Investment Bank for production infrastructure.

David added that a $10-million loan from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency would be signed this month, while another loan worth euro 7 million from German lender KfW would be signed in December.

The DBP has also offered to help the government cope with shortfalls arising from the suspension of the value added tax (VAT) by advancing a cash dividend of P1 billion from this year's earnings.

David said the bank was currently on track with its desired P3-billion net profit for 2005, generating P1.54 billion in the first semester or 71 percent higher than the level a year ago.

Assuming that the DBP would meet its profit target for this year, it will be required to remit 50 percent of the amount or P1.5 billion to the national government.

David said the P1.54 billion profit registered in the first semester represented 170 percent of the bank's target for the period.

"DBP continued to perform the delicate balancing act of accomplishing its development mandate while maintaining its financial stability," David said.

The bank's gross income reached P7.83 billion versus the P6.62 billion registered as of June last year. Its net income before loan loss provisioning amounted to P2.21 billion.

The DBP also turned in a gross loan portfolio of P95.72 billion, up from P80.14 billion as of the first semester last year. Its total assets stood at 9.36 percent as against the industry's average of 12.91 percent.

RP gets $64-M loan for water sanitation project

By Michelle V. Remo

THE WORLD Bank has extended $64 million to the Philippine government for the improvement of water sanitation and sewerage systems in Metro Manila, as it raised alarm over the worsening problem of water pollution in the country.

The multilateral agency estimated that the country was losing as much as P67 billion in potential income yearly due to poor sanitation and sewerage system.

If not for the poor condition of the water systems, the World Bank said, the Philippines could have generated more income from activities like tourism and fisheries.

"Metro Manila, one of the country's most important economic zones and home to more than 12 million people, has the worst state of water pollution in the country. Water is supplied to 90 percent of its population but only 15 percent is connected to a sewerage system," the World Bank said in a statement.

It also noted that while 85 percent of Metro Manila's population has septic tanks, these were mostly poorly constructed and inadequately maintained.

The loan was channeled through Land Bank of the Philippines for relending to Manila Water Corp., which will carry out the project.

"More than 3 million Filipinos are expected to benefit from this project. It will not only address the environmental impact of water pollution, but will help reduce water-related illnesses and deaths among poor Filipinos," said Christopher Hoban, acting Philippines country director of the World Bank. *With a report from Elizabeth L. Sanchez*

BCDA fast-tracks Subic-Clark expressway

THE BASES Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA) said the Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway Project would be finished on time and "within budget."

The expressway is expected to be completed by the end of 2007 at a cost of P21 billion.

The four-lane toll road network will connect the industrial, transport and business hubs of Subic, Clark and Tarlac.

BCDA president and CEO Narciso Abaya said the project was a major component of the Global Gateways Initiative.

Abaya said the timely completion of the project was crucial in boosting growth in Luzon.

BCDA vice president for operations Antonio Rex Chan said that despite the recent depreciation of the peso, the cost of the project was unaffected since it was yen-based.

Chan said foreign exchange rate fluctuations have been taken into account in determining the project cost.

Chan said the planned expressway would pass through Angeles City, Mabalacat, Porac and Floridablanca in Pampanga; Tarlac City, Bamban, and Concepcion in Tarlac, and Dinalupihan and Hermosa in Bataan.

Funding for the project will come from a Y41.931-million soft loan from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC). The counterpart funding of P6.2 billion was secured by the BCDA through loans from Banco de Oro and the Development Bank of the Philippines.

RP still . . .

From page B1

Signell, pointing to the products that have emerged here using SMS.

The official said Ericsson believed that even with the entry of the third-generation frequencies or 3G in most markets, the second-generation technology commonly referred to as GSM (global system for mobile) would remain in control for a long time.

The Swedish telecom vendor claims to have 40 percent of the GSM market worldwide and 35 percent of 3G based on subscribers served.

"GSM will continue to grow for many more years in the Philippines and in the world but this is not to say that 3G won't happen. GSM and 3G will co-exist for many, many years," he said.

Signell said 45 percent of the growth in mobile telecom in the next four years would come from Asia Pacific, particularly from huge markets like China and India.

He said new technologies like 3G would open new opportunities for operators to provide new services.

"There is still a lot to do in the Philippines to provide service in a lot of areas," Signell noted.

He projected that 3G would readily take off in Asia as its younger population has been more receptive to new technologies. Japan is the most advanced 3G market while South Korea leads the world in terms of broadband.

"There is something about Asia that most Asians do not realize. They tend to be more pioneering than boring Europeans. They have better belief in the future," Signell said.

"In every market, there are money constraints and consumers prioritize spending: But our studies showed that when people start to earn more money, a mobile phone is a priority," the Ericsson official added.

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Editor **Aries Espinosa**

The biggest food show in RP

FOOD manufacturers, businessmen, entrepreneurs, company executives, food enthusiasts, trade buyers and visitors averaging up to 40,000 will again assemble at AsiaFood Expo (Afex), the 14th International Exposition on Food Processing, Packaging and Handling Machinery, Equipment and Technology from Sep. 7 to 10 at the World Trade Center Metro Manila. Visitors troop to AsiaFood Expo to buy equipment, negotiate sales, transact business and attend seminars on franchising and other products presentations and product demonstrations.

AsiaFood Expo is the country's biggest food exhibit featuring the latest equipment and state-of-the-art technology. AsiaFood Expo extravagantly displays superb products and machineries. It helps bring together various players in the food industry and make them accessible to the public, which is the biggest support in the country's economic stability. AsiaFood Expo is an event that is always imitated but never equaled.

AsiaFood Expo is still unmatched and unsurpassed in terms of participation of suppliers and visitors. This is evident by the participation of about 184 homegrown and 351 foreign companies that totaled 535 exhibitor companies coming from 35 countries. Last year's Afex was able to gather 31,861 registered local and international trade buyers and visitors.

AsiaFood Expo is organized by Trade Information Marketing & Exhibitions Inc, a professional exhibition and trade show organizer. For more queries about the expo, call 834-0085 to 86; fax 831-3828 or e-mail tradeinfo@pldtdsl.net.

AsiaFood Expo is held with together with Food & Drinks Asia 2005, the 9th International Exposition on Specialty Foods, Delicatessen, Confectionery, Beverages, Beers, Wines and Spirits; Food Franchising 2005, the 9th International Food Franchising and Business Systems Exposition and FoodServ Asia 2005, the 5th International Exposition on Foodservice, Catering Systems, Supplies, Equipment and Technology.

GLOBEQUEST, IBM FORMALIZE PARTNERSHIP
Innove Communications Inc, through its GlobeQUEST brand, and leading IT company IBM Philippines Inc have formalized their partnership in providing customers with more relevant solutions through specific product bundles for each identified segment. Shown are, from left, Aries Sayson, GlobeQUEST head for corporate sales; Jesus C. Romero, GlobeQUEST head; Victor M. Silvino, IBM Philippines country manager for business partner organization, and Ferdie Macatangay, IBM Philippines alliance manager.

HITACHI APERTO (MRI) NOW AT CAPITOL MEDICAL CENTER
Capitol Medical Center (CMC), in partnership with the GSIS, recently inaugurated its fully-equipped Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) section and is now proud to offer the brand new and state-of-the-art technology in diagnostic performance and patient comfort-the Hitachi Aperto 0.4Tesla, the Super Permanent Magnet, comparative to 1.5 supercon. This open-type MRI has a high operability that reduces and even eliminates patient claustrophobia. Aperto is exclusively distributed by Himex Corp. Shown during the ribbon cutting ceremony were guest of honor Winston Garcia-President of GSIS, and Dr. Thelma Navarette-Clemente, hospital director and founder of CMC together with CMC's group of doctors and several VIP guests.

'6 degrees of separation' between you and your ideal date

WE'VE all been there. You've secured your dad's driver and the best car in his fleet. A dozen fresh, red, full-bloom roses and a box of the best, melt-in-your-mouth, swiss chocolates reassuringly in hand. You've made reservations at Makati's swankiest restaurant, an expensive wine waiting in the wings. You set your tie straight, a final tug of the tux and you ring the door bell. She opens the door, a vision in an elegant strapless gown. Who said blind dates are tragedies waiting to happen? Three hours later, you're pushing your P500-a-plate dessert to and fro, desperately trying to stifle a yawn. She's been going on and on about the advantages of liquid foundation over powder foundation for the past two hours. You, on the other hand, have been quite busy imagining the various torture techniques you would administer on your doofus friend, desperately pondering how, in God's green earth, was he able to convince you that this was a great idea. Ah, the travails of the career bachelor. You've tried everything: blind dates, Internet chatrooms, and, God-forbid, even the infamous Song Hits text-me-I'm-girl listings. Pathetic? Yes. Desperate? Yes. But who knows where love coyly hides, waiting for your sweet hello. Some time ago, an international Jewish educational network named Aish HaTorah created the concept of "speed dating". Originally intended to encourage Jewish singles to marry within their faith, the phenomenon has now spread throughout the world as a quick way of screening for prospective Romeos and Juliets. Here in the Philippines, a group of enterprising young cupids have pioneered the concept. Calling its young venture 'Six Degrees' (in reference to the six degrees of separation theory), they hope to spark a revolution in Philippine dating, and maybe prompting a few 'I dos' further down the road. How does this version of speed dating work? Held in private lounges and upscale bars, they provide a casual and familiar ambiance for meeting people. As the participants arrive, they are provided kits and assigned a number. Treated to a sumptuous dinner, they are given a chance to mingle and warm-up for the big event.

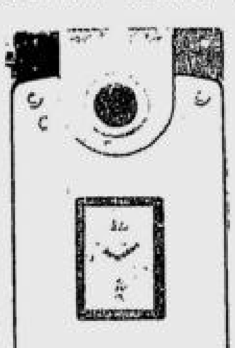
After dinner, each participating single will be asked to pair up with a person with the same number as his. Each couple will be given three to five minutes to acquaint themselves with each other, after which a bell will be rung. This signals the couples to switch partners.

Again, participants will be given three to five minutes to chat. After each micro-date, the speed daters will be tasked to mark in their respective tally sheets the number of each person they'd want to pursue a full date with. These sheets will be tallied at the end of the event and two to three days later participants will receive a list of names and corresponding contact information. These "matches" are fellow participants whom they have expressed interest in, and who have likewise expressed interest in them. What happens next is up to them and fate. A number of innovative, follow-up events are in the Six Degree pipeline. Reunion parties, speed dates featuring models and celebrities, the possibilities are simply endless, and when love is involved, the sky's the limit. You can call 6 degrees at 0922-4973261 if you want to join or if you have any inquiries regarding future events.

Hip phones that are slim, sleek, and smart

IT SEEMS that being slim, snug and trim doesn't just go for bodies any longer. This May, when Panasonic Mobile Communications Co Ltd launched the super slim and trim models X800 and A210, a streamlined stat has also become the hottest aspect in mobile communication.

"The X800 has been designed with the active, high-powered young businessmen in mind. Its changeable express covers give it a fashionable edge and make it an attractive accessory. Meanwhile, the phone's Symbian Operating System powers the X800 with specialized media features that will certainly boost the capability of the user. The A210, on the other hand, will delight the young market because it is the only phone with a *kirari* messaging feature. This feature will make messaging more fun and interesting," says Hiroshi Otani, Panasonic Philippines' director for system sales department.



PANASONIC X800

At just 17.2 mm thin and 99g, the X800 certainly fits the slim-and-trim bill to a T. Its smooth, sleek design easily fits the pocket, making it the most ideal handset for people who value convenience and handiness. Its lightweight body also travels well so that the handset can be used anytime, anywhere without fuss. The model pushes expediency to the limit with its One-Push Auto Open-a special feature that lets the handset pop open with just a touch of a button. With this unique function, the working urbanite need not miss that important call or fumble awkwardly when answering incoming calls.

PANASONIC A210

At P24,990 per unit, substance is definitely in direct proportion to the X800's style with its Symbian Operating System. The Symbian OS packs the Quickoffice feature, a document viewer based on the Series 60 platform that allows users the elbowroom to view and edit Microsoft Office files, such as Excel, Word and Powerpoint documents. And since an extensive memory is essential in carrying out high-powered functions, the X800 has been made up to the job with its miniSD card, which, remarkably, is just about the size of a postage stamp. With the use of a miniSD card adapter, the photos and video clips inside the card can be transmitted to a PC and other AV equipment. What's more, edited and processed still and moving images can be viewed on a large TV or projector. They can also be sent to other mobile devices or printed for posterity.

The X800's VGA CMOS camera is video capable and allows up to four times digital zooming. The images can be resized, framed, trimmed, rotated, or appended with text, date and image stamps. Aside from multimedia messaging service, short message service and Internet mailing, the X800 is also infrared- and bluetooth-equipped. With the use of the BT Headset EB-BHX70, users can enjoy wireless hands-free communication. It also comes outfitted with 40 polyphonic ring tones, 20 preset ring tones, 10 preset wallpapers, and two exciting built-in games employing the Java MIDP 2.0 technology.

And since X800 is in itself a statement of style, it lets users wear their moods or match their clothes with the X-Changeable Cover.

The A210, priced at P5,890 per unit, puts the fun back in mobile communication with its fashionable and totally innovative Messaging Illumination feature. This feature makes text messaging more engaging with the use of light effects to convey the emotion of the message. When a message is received, the indicator flashes colors and patterns that correspond to the emoticons in the message-giving the receiver the ability to know the mood of the message even before opening it.

The image-conscious teen will find endless delight in the A210 because the handset model comes complete with 40 easy-to-input pictographic characters guaranteed to make text messaging more creative and exciting. Users can choose from 10 pre-installed 16-polyphonic ring tones that suit every mood and preference, and provide a selection of melodies that make pleasant incoming call signals.

At 16.5mm thin and just a mere 71g in weight, the A210 is a sleek and slender mobile phone alright, but it is equipped with a powerful 65k CSTN Color LCD with a 128 x 128 pixel colored screen that make for clear and crisp images. As a versatile communication tool, the A210 supports the WAP 2.0 Browser, and EMS and SMS functions. This up-to-the-minute model comes in the cool color combinations of white/red, white/champagne, white /gold and white/silver.

The Panasonic X800 and A210 are available at Panasonic distributors and dealers nationwide.

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Batanes local officials headed by Rep. Henedina R. Abad and Gov. Vicente S. Gato distributed 3,100 land titles during the Handog Titulo Program initiated by Administrator Benedicto B. Ulep of the Land Registration Authority. Shown are some of the beneficiaries with Ex-Officio Register of Deeds Alexius C. Narag, LRA Financial Officer Oscar S. Montoya, LRA-CARP project manager Armando M. de Leon, Abad and Gato.

COCOLIFE HAILED FOR MARKETING EXCELLENCE
Cocolife, one of the leading Filipino life insurance companies, was cited by the Philippine Marketing Awards Institute as the Most Outstanding Life Insurance Company for 2005. Cocolife is the first ISO-certified life insurance company in the Philippines, which offers a spectrum of protection, savings and investment products and other financial services to individuals and corporations for over 25 years. The Philippine Marketing Excellence Awards is organized by the Philippine Marketing Excellence Awards Institute Inc, the Asian Institute of Marketing and Entrepreneurship, and the Sales and Marketing Magazine. Awardees are voted by consumers and marketing professionals for best marketing practices through a combination of surveys, focus group discussions, and market research. Receiving the award from awards committee chair Dr. Felix M. Lao Jr Ph.D. and guest of honor Sen. Aquilino Q. Pimentel Jr is (from left) Cocolife president lawyer Alfredo C. Tumacder Jr together with Cocolife VP for greater Luzon region Marco A. Montes, Bancassurance manager Chris T. Ponce, marketing planning senior manager Ma. Rowena Jael-Asnan and northeast Luzon area head Edward Robin V. Gonzales.

A NATION IN AGONY

State- of-the-Nation Address of General Fortunato Abat

Chairman, Christian Nationalist Union (CNU), Coalition for National Solidarity (CNS) and Philippine Muslim Solidarity Council (PMSC)

I am an old soldier.

I have come here not to speak about the many sacrifices I have rendered that this nation might live but to offer more of my honor and toil that it may survive.

Our nation is in agony. And its trip to the final hour is being hurried by bickering politicians who skirmish endlessly to achieve ostensibly a common good but in reality just to gain more personal power and perks..

Our nation is in agony. Anguishing as hunger stalks the land with less than half of one half our people able to fill their food bowls at meal time. Jobs which should alleviate the grinding poverty that now grip the people from the countryside to the city slums are as illusory as the promises of better life for the downtrodden by vote-hunting politicians.

Our nation is in agony. Tortured by the fact that while the people go hungry, while millions remain without jobs and therefore unable to provide for their most basic needs of clothes on their backs, roofs over their heads and education for their children, corruption runs wild in high places enriching government fat cats and making mockery of our heritage of high moral values and Christian behavior.

Our nation is in agony. Over the progressive disintegration of our fundamental institutions. Polls after polls have shown how little the public regard the instrumentalities of government that glue together the Republic. Congress is viewed as the campsite of a band of merry men no more scrupulous than the denizens of Robin Hood's Sherwood Forest. The Judiciary is home to many who are fittingly described by no less than a former President as hoodlums in robes. The COMELEC, once the guarantor of clean and fair electoral process, now regarded as inventor and promoter of the new electoral arithmetic called dagdag-bawas.

Our nation is in agony. And in tears over the undoing of the Presidency. Ah the Presidency! How it sank so low in credibility and public esteem with the present occupant enjoying less than 20% popular approval. Which sadly means that out of 10 persons asked only 2 think she is a roaring success in the job, the rest think she ought to be shown the door out.

Our nation is in agony. Because with our institutions in such a mess, how in the name of all we hold dear, can we ever, ever defeat the dragons of poverty, hunger, joblessness, and the even bigger dragons of fiscal deficit, foreign debts and political disorder that threaten the very existence of the Republic?.

Yes, I and my group want Madame Arroyo to go, to step down from the Presidency pronto. We not only want her to resign, WE DEMAND IT. Because she is not just part of the problem why the country is in such a mess. SHE IS THE PROBLEM.

But change at the top is not all that we need to have to give our country a fighting chance at achieving prosperity. We need a total overhaul of our political system.

How do we see the change at the top, followed by a change in our political system be effected?. We envision the following scenario:

The CNU-CNS acting as convenor shall convoke a Council of Leaders comprised of prominent and influential personalities in the business community, religious groups, the academe, the Opposition, the military, Congress and major players in parliament of the street.

The Council of Leaders shall work out a system of governance that is founded on righteous values. The immediate aim is to synchronize government policies and programs toward a collective vision of achieving the good life for all Filipinos.

Second in the immediate task of the Council is clear vertical compartmentalization and seamless organizational integration of legislative and executive functions and thus insure the connection between needs, policies and execution. Executive functions shall be organized into sectors each with clear responsibilities and accountabilities.

The major effort of the Council shall be focused towards achievement of the following reforms:

Political- - To overhaul our political systems and government institutions and achieve social integration and political unity;

Economic and governance- - To integrate human development , economic development, physical development and development management strategies towards improving national productivity, accelerating industrial growth and more competitive strength in the global market

Security and justice- - to radically improve overall capacities for law enforcement, security and justice and strengthen the rule of law.

To insure that changes and reforms will be swift and thorough, the Council of Leaders shall work out ways to put on hold operations of certain sectors of government such as Congress that slow down or totally counter economic growth.

Models of governance that have been found successful in other Asian countries like Malaysia and Singapore shall be adopted more particularly features that promote industry, excellence and discipline , and policies that curb corruption , illegal gambling and drugs.

The bureaucracy shall be strengthened and professionalized so that continuity and consistency of service will not be disturbed by the vagaries of politics.

It's a New Philippines we are envisioning where the strong are just and the weak are assured of protection and support and opportunities are open to all.

Detractors claim I am indulging in an impossible dream. That all I envision for the country cannot be done. That even if they can be done I am well advanced in years to lead the effort for their accomplishment.

To them I say, yes, I am no spring chicken no more, and so were De Gaulle, Churchill, Adenauer, Ben Gurion when they led their countries in their hour of difficulty and maximum danger.

I am fully determined to do for my country what I see I must do even at the cost of all I hold sacred and dear.

This is not just a solemn pledge. This is also a prayer.

I thank you.

General Fortunato Abat

(Delivered Saturday, July 23, 2005, at the Club Filipino before members of the academe, Muslim leaders and civil society groups)

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

Premium virgin coconut oil delivery service launched

ELIXIRS Pacific International Corp (EPiC), in its desire to make premium virgin coconut oil (VCO) readily available to the public, has recently launched a nationwide delivery service for its brand, EPiC.

This was announced by EPiC president Gil Obias, a founding member and current officer of the Virgin Coconut Oil Producers and Traders Association, Inc (VCOPhils Inc).

"We want to further promote high-grade VCO, the miracle oil, in the entire archipelago. We are making the wonder effects of VCO easily accessible to more Filipinos by bringing it directly to their homes and offices," said Obias.

EPiC Virgin coconut oil has been approved by BFAD as a food supplement and is now being exported to Canada and other countries.

VCO has been known to strengthen the body's immune system. It also has anti-viral, anti-bacterial, anti-fungal and anti-protozoal properties and is excellent for hair and skin.

Known as "Fresh and Fast" campaign, the service shall deliver to the public the best/freshest VCO from its C-VAP technology, a system developed with assistance from the Department of Science and Technology (DOST).

EPiC so far is the only recognized company that utilizes C-VAP, mechanical separation by centrifuge coupled with high efficiency vacuum drying-evaporation. It assures the consumer that EPiC's premium-grade VCO is produced at its Batangas plant within two to three hours from the time the coconuts are cracked.

To avail yourself of this service and experience the difference, just dial 932-6706, 932-0587, 0917-5412306, or e-mail sales@elixirspacific.com.

INQUIRER VISITS BACOLOD CITY

Inquirer SVP for sales and marketing Rene Reinoso recently paid a visit to 81-year-old Bacolod City newsdealer Prudencio Gonzales (2nd from left) to express his gratitude for the dominant market share Inquirer is currently enjoying in Bacolod City. Also shown is Jimmy Gonzales with wife Prescy. The Negros region is just one of the busy hubs where strategic initiatives are now being undertaken to further strengthen the market share in the area for Inquirer.

CHED, Asian Eye Institute tie up for low vision rehab program

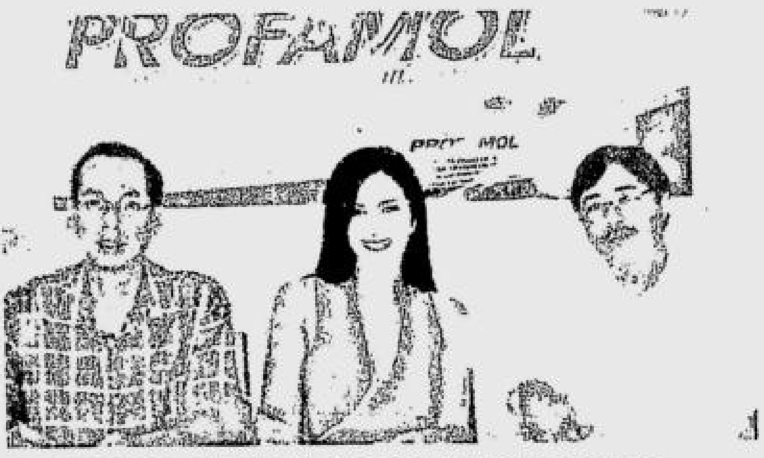
THE COMMISSION on Higher Education (CHED), in its desire to help millions of Filipinos suffering from low vision and provide for better educational training of Filipino optometrists, recently signed a memorandum of agreement with Asian Eye Institute (AEI), one of the most respected eye care centers in Asia, to design and implement a faculty development program for 11 optometry schools nationwide. CHED tapped AEI for its expertise and most up-to-date technology on contact lenses and low vision. The month-long training program called Optometry Faculty Development Program on Contact Lenses and Vision Rehabilitation started May 2. The lectures and clinical workshops were held at the Asian Eye Institute, 9th floor, Phinma Building, Rockwell Center, Makati City and headed by AEI's chief optometrist and contact lens and low vision specialist Dr. Jesse B. Caguioa.

The program had two modules. The clinical training module on cornea and contact lenses addressed current issues in diagnosis and management of contact lenses and its related ocular problems, contact lens fitting, design and manufacturing, contact lens solutions and lubricants. "This module is designed to provide optometric educators with a holistic view of the management of refractive problems and includes special topics on laser vision correction and other forms of refractive surgery options in managing refractive errors," says Caguioa. "It definitely goes beyond contact lens prescription," he quickly adds.

The second training module covered Low Vision Rehabilitation, an aspect of eye care generally not well-known in the country. Low vision is due to ocular disorders such as age-related macular degeneration, glaucoma, diabetic retinopathy, retinitis pigmentosa, and diseases of the cornea, among others. These disorders lead to vision impairment that affects an individual's ability to read, write, sign documents, use the computer, travel, and other activities.

"The training on low vision will be holistic to provide participants with knowledge in the clinical care of ocular disorders that causes low vision problems and new approaches in assessing and rehabilitating patients with functional vision impairment," Caguioa reveals. Participants, he says, learned the latest in low vision devices, techniques in training low vision patients, the psychological and economic impact of low vision problems on patients and families, and the epidemiology of low vision problems across the globe. In addition, the seminar also tackled the social issues in the delivery of care for low vision patients, the role of non-governmental organizations in Low Vision Rehabilitation, and coordination and integration of the delivery of services with allied professionals involved in occupational rehabilitative care, social work, and counseling.

Dr. Robert Edward Ang assisted and conducted the two-week module on cornea and contact lenses, while Dr. Amadeo A.S. Veloso Jr, took on the module for low vision and visual rehabilitation. These doctors are also from the Asian Eye Institute.



PROFAMOL, NEWEST SUPPLEMENT FOR PAIN

Women get extremely irritable and moody during their pre-menstrual period. More often than not, they succumb to other unsafe methods just to ease the pain and other discomfort. Now, they can heave a sigh of relief with the arrival of Profamol, the newest breakthrough supplement product for the relief of symptoms associated with pre-menstrual, dysmenorrheal and other post-menstrual syndromes. Manufactured and distributed by La Croesus Pharmaceutical, Profamol is also effective in regulating cholesterol and triglycerides, which helps prevent plaque buildup in the blood vessels. Profamol is also effective in the treatment of eczema, psoriasis and other skin disorders. Shown from left are Doy Lukban, national sales and promo manager for La Croesus Pharma, beauty queen and Profamol product endorser Josephine Canonizado and Ricky Castillo, president of La Croesus Pharmaceuticals Inc.

Banaba-Ampalaya to control blood sugar

BETTER Herbs Inc, the award-winning natural food supplement company, combines the power of two of the most extensively researched herbal extracts that can help control blood sugar-banaba leaves and ampalaya fruit into the Better Herbs Banaba-Ampalaya.

Banaba contains rich amount of corosolic acid that has been clinically proven to control blood sugar level. To make a potent formulation, Ampalaya-another herb traditionally used to regulate blood glucose, was added.

At 750mg per tablet, it is the most affordable herbal supplement for type II diabetics on a per mg basis. Better Herbs' Banaba-Ampalaya is now available at Mercury Drug, Watsons, Emmaflor Drug and other leading drugstores nationwide.

For more info, text 0918-9349347 or call 723-4376 or 721-4376.

MEDICAL MISSION IN BATANGAS

The Public Affairs Service once again ventured into the mountains surrounding San Juan, Batangas-specifically in the barangay of Kalabasahan, where insurgents have been active lately, dispensing medical, diagnostic, optical, minor surgery, circumcision, deworming, milkfeeding, and distribution of nutritional products to approximately 1,700 beneficiaries. School books, notebooks, pads, pencils, chalk, basketballs, volleyballs and other athletic equipment were also distributed to more than 250 school children. All services and equipment were given free. Shown is a patient being fitted with one of 210 eyeglasses dispensed freely by Lt. Cmdr Ruby Lim (PN), as Col. Jess Cabarrus (PAF) PAS Commander, looks on.

St. Stephen's High welcomes Class '88

IN LINE with the school's 88th founding anniversary, Class '88 will be having its homecoming on July 31, 11 a.m. at Stephenian Hall, 5th floor elementary building. Special numbers, raffle draws and other surprises await participating batch mates. Call now and join the trip down memory lane. Admission is absolutely free. For registration and other inquiries, call 254-8754 to 59 and look for Irene Valderama.

Prisma study shows drug's advantage

WHILE the action of many anti-hypertensives may be reduced after five hours, telmisartan provides superior blood pressure lowering in the early morning hours, when blood pressure is known to surge, and sustained blood pressure lowering over a full 24-hour period.

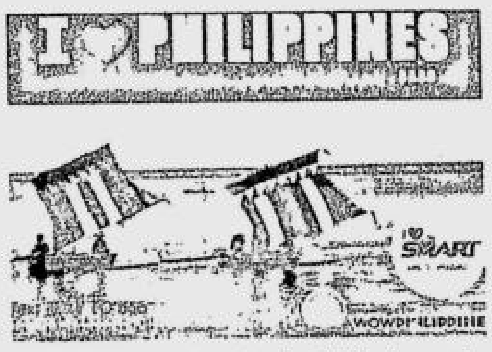
Two new studies, Prospective, Randomized Investigation of the Safety and Efficacy of Micardis vs ramipril using ABPM (Prisma I and II studies) presented at the European Society of Hypertension (ESH) annual meeting on June 20 confirmed the efficacy and safety of once-daily telmisartan 80 mg and ramipril 10 mg on blood pressure reductions during the last six hours of the dosing interval, measured by ambulatory blood pressure monitoring (ABPM).

The results of Prisma I and II support previous data proving that telmisartan is consistently superior to many other commonly prescribed anti-hypertensives in the early morning hours.

Emergency doctors say that more strokes and heart attacks happen in the morning. This all adds to increasing evidence highlighting the importance of protecting patients from the early morning blood pressure surge. Since it's not practical to measure patients' blood pressure in the early morning to check if they are well controlled, the best option is a treatment regimen that provides effective 24-hour BP control, as indicated by the results of the Prisma study.

Product Files

DOT, Smart present the Biyahe Na! Card



TO BOOST tourism in the Philippines, the Department of Tourism and Smart Communications Inc recently launched the Biyahe Na! Card. Available at all Smart Wireless Centers and Biyahe Na booths in SM Malls nationwide, the Biyahe Na! Card showcases the beauty of the Philippines while offering perks and privileges to cardholders such as discounts from Jollibee, Shell, Philippine Airlines and Biyaheng Gimik travel partners. Other popular establishments like Watsons, Toy Kingdom and Baby Co are also offering freebies through this promo.

There are four ways of getting a Biyahe Na! Card. One is by purchasing a Smart prepaid phonekit plus P30 e-load. Another way is by getting a Smart prepaid SIM plus P30 e-load. You can also SIM-swap your non-Smart SIM, then e-load P60 to automatically get the card. Existing Smart subscribers can get the card by simply downloading P30 worth of Biyahe Na! content like different logos, picture messages and wallpapers featuring breathtaking Philippine tourist attractions.

You can also subscribe to Biyahe Na! downloads to get daily and weekly contents exclusive to Smart subscribers by texting LUV to 555 for a menu of available Biyahe Na! services.

Fortuner 'bling'

CURRENTLY making waves in the automotive sales charts as the country's must-have SUV, the Toyota Fortuner SUV was given a makeover by the modification and performance enhancement gurus of the "Aftermarket Mafia". What makes this Fortuner stand out is the unique ground effects body kit created by A-Toy, DUB style wheels by Concept One and sexy eyes from Xenon Bulbs.

Made from resilient fiberglass and composite materials, A-Toy's OEM fit Fortuner body kit is flexible and highly resistant to the elements. A-Toy added a custom-built grille for an aggressive front end; door moldings for a wide body look; step board housing for design continuity of the door moldings and matching front and rear add-on kits for ground effects. Adding to its flair are Leonardo 22-inch Magwheels from Concept One wheels wrapped in sporty NT 555 Nitto Tires.

Complementing the exterior of this SUV are High Intensity Discharge (HiD) lamps for extreme nighttime illumination.

The Fortuner ground effects body-kit will soon be available in select Toyota dealers nationwide. For details on how to make your Toyota Fortuner sizzle, call 413-5888/414-1068/0917-8381972 or visit the A-toy paint and bodykits showroom at 57 West Avenue, Quezon City. Log on to www.a-toybodykits.com; call 713-1998 or log on to www.xenon-bulbs.com for bright HiDs, and 724-7176/724-2739 to call Concept One or log on to www.conceptonewheels.com.

Sing through the Philippines

WOW!
Sing through the
PHILIPPINES
VCD

EXPERIENCE diverse attractions, world-class tourist spots, a blanket-of-stars, complemented by a wealthy share of culture and heritage with the "Sing through the Philippines" VCD. "Sing through the Philippines" VCD is the first-ever compilation of various tourism related MTVs showcasing the nation's best and brightest artists in a spectacular performance to promote domestic tourism.

Included in the compilation is the "Biyahe Tayo" MTV performed by Apo Hiking Society, Freddie Aguilar, Sharon Cuneta, Rico J. Puno, Lea Salonga, April Boy Regino, Ogie Alcasid, Joey Ayala, Rey Valera, Rico Blanco, Jong Cuenco, John Lesaca, Jolina Magdangal, Janno Gibbs, Paolo Santos, Francis Magalona, Jessa Zaragoza, Nina, and Mike Villegas. This was produced by Pfizer/Bonamine with the Department of Tourism (DOT). Also featured is the "I Love Philippines, Biyahe Na" TVCs featuring Regine Velasquez produced by Smart Communications in cooperation with the DOT.

Also included is the Philippine Tourism Authority's MTV "Pilipino Sa Turismo Ay Aktibo". The MTV features a powerhouse cast led by Gary Valenciano and Kuh Ledesma, plus noted celebrities such as Charo Santos, Kris Aquino, Ai-Ai delas Alas, Roderick Paulate, Claudine Barretto, Jericho Rosales, Piolo Pascual, Jiro Manio, Heart Evangelista, Ella Mae Saison, Jamie Rivera, Dianne dela Fuente, Vhong Navarro, April Boy Regino, and Angelika Jones.

The "Sing through the Philippines" VCD is produced by In-A-Jiffy Enterprises, distributor of WOW Magic Sing Premium, the number one selling videoke microphone in the country today, in cooperation with the Department of Tourism, PTA, Pfizer/Bonamine and Smart Communications. Get a free copy of this VCD with every purchase of a WOW! Magic Sing Premium Fiesta or Mabuhay 2005 Editions. WOW! Magic Sing Premium videoke microphone is exclusively distributed by In-A-Jiffy Enterprises and G2K Corp. For more information, call 285-2663, 722-5527 or log on to www.magicmic.com and wowmagicsing.com.

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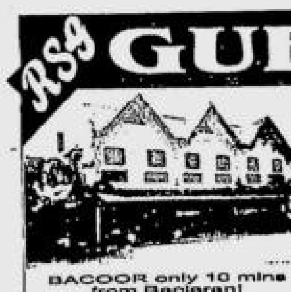

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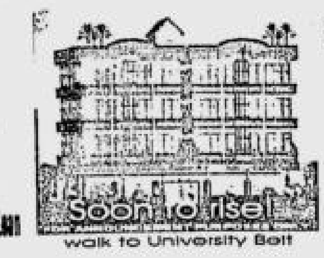

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SAN JUAN

L. MENCIAS NR. P. GUEVARRA BnewTwnhse/3sty/3br/3-4tb/mdsrm/1-2grge P3.645M up Tel 8903461

Y pay Mor? 130+m² 3BR/3TB + Prkg, Royal View Mansion Ryt acros Grnhills, Xavier & ICA P4M neg. 721-6747 DBO

LOT

MARIKINA

SSS Vill. 1578m² 634-1212

PARANAQUE

1008230m².w/Fin.nr NAIA, SM Bicutan/ Sucat Moonwalk, Pque 09206540954

PASIG

PASIG Sandoval Ave. Munting Bahayan Subd. 182m² Cor Nr Gate 733-9206

QUEZON CITY

GRAND VILLAS Top Row w/view back ATENEO LOTS hse & lots avble 426-5650 929-1832 • 0919-8212235

★KATIPUNAN Ext Real lot nr UP Ateneo 204 to 408m² P8,500/m² 0918-9235218★

OTHER AREAS

TAGAYTAY LOTS AND H&L
w/CLUB & GOLF MEMBERSHIP 300 to 700sqm CASH OR TERMS 5YRS INTEREST FREE (FOR LOTS ONLY)
BEACH LOTS
w/CLUB & GOLF MEMBERSHIP 500 to 1000sqm CASH OR TERMS
FARM LOTS
w/AMENITIES & FACILITIES 1000 to 2000sqm CASH OR TERMS FOR INQUIRIES PLS CALL 5361776 ; 09178994176

LAGUNA

192m².w/Fin.Southpeak1 (Filinvest, beside FIL TAT Golf), San Pedro. 0920-6540954

OFFICE SPACE

Dental Clinic Mktl 7314868

BEST BUY August Auctionfest
COMPETITIVE INTEREST RATES as low as 8% p.a

METROBANK
[illegible]
AUGUST 18, 2005
[illegible]

CALOOCAN CITY

LOT 1 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 371 sqm.
Lot 2 Blk 2 Everest St., Mountain Heights Subd., Novaliches
Minimum Bid Price 450,000.00

LOT 2 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 292 sqm.
Lot 2 Blk 1 Oakland St., Vista Verde North Phase 1-E, Brgy. Llano, (North)
Minimum Bid Price 650,000.00

LOT 3 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 240 sqm.
Lot 20 Blk 26 Gen. Isagani V. Campo St. Banker's Village II
Minimum Bid Price 650,000.00

LOT 4 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 750 sqm.
Lot 8 Blk 11 Crispulo St., Victory Heights Subd., Novaliches
Minimum Bid Price 810,000.00

LOT 5 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 273 sqm.
Lot 12 Blk 11, Camarin Rd., Brgy. Camarin
Minimum Bid Price 900,000.00

LOT 6 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 259.7 sqm.
Floor Area 124 sqm.
Lot 2 Blk 19, # 20 Anonas St., Brgy PHHC-Camarin Subd., Area D, Brgy. Camarin
Minimum Bid Price 900,000.00

LOT 7 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 100 sqm.
Dahlia St. cor Road Lot 10 Estrella Homes Phase I
Minimum Bid Price 900,000.00

LOT 8 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 216 sqm.
34 Pomelo St., Rainbow Village 5, Phase 1, Brgy Deparo
Minimum Bid Price 930,000.00

LOT 9 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 355 sqm.
68 Ninang Lydia St., BF Homes Phase II
Minimum Bid Price 1,900,000.00

LOT 10 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 121 sqm.
Floor Area 411 sqm.
E. Gomez St., Brgy. Calaanan
Minimum Bid Price 2,661,000.00

LOT 11 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 187.5 sqm.
Floor Area 113 & 354 sqm.
147 L. Nadurata cor Massabelle Sts Grace Park
Minimum Bid Price 4,000,000.00

LAS PIÑAS CITY

LOT 12 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 225 sqm.
Lot 14-A Vatican Drive Italia 500 Subd., BF Resort, Brgy. Talon Dos
Minimum Bid Price 2,100,000.00

LOT 13 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 240 sqm.
Lot 31, Blk 1Cypress Road Pilar Village Phase II
Minimum Bid Price 2,300,000.00

LOT 14 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 351 sqm.
Floor Area 210 sqm.
239 El Grande Ave., BF International, BF Homes Brgy Talon
Minimum Bid Price 2,400,000.00

LOT 15 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 630 sqm.
Floor Area 315 sqm.
2 Joy Conde St. BF Resort Village
Minimum Bid Price 4,300,000.00

LOT 16 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 644 sqm.
Floor Area 391 sqm.
202 Venice St., BF International, BF Homes, Brgy. Talon
Minimum Bid Price 4,400,000.00

LOT 17 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 1,708 sqm.
Floor Area 2,174 sqm.
Jose Compound No 889 J. Aguilar Ave., Casimiro
Minimum Bid Price 7,000,000.00

MAKATI CITY

LOT 18 - CONDO-COMML
Floor Area 29.41 sqm.
Unit 2116 Cityland 10 Tower 1 HV Dela Costa St.
Minimum Bid Price 902,000.00

LOT 19 - CONDO-COMML
Floor Area 65 sqm.
Unit 19-N Burgundy Corporate Towers Gil Puyat Ave.
Minimum Bid Price 4,200,000.00

LOT 20 - CONDO-RESDL
Floor Area 45 sqm.
Unit 1204 Nobel Plaza Condo, 110 Valero St., Salcedo Vill.
Minimum Bid Price 2,000,000.00

LOT 21 - CONDO-RESDL
Floor Area 63.64 sqm.
Unit P8 Prince Tower, Tordesillas St., Salcedo Vill.
Minimum Bid Price 2,250,000.00

LOT 22 - CONDO-RESDL
Floor Area 63.75 sqm.
Unit 6D Classica Tower Condo, 114 HV Dela Costa St. Salcedo Vill
Minimum Bid Price 3,825,000.00

MALABON CITY

LOT 23 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 251 sqm.
Floor Area 241 sqm.
Lot 6 Blk 13 Willow St., Victoneta North Subd., Brgy Potrero, Bo. Tinajeros
Minimum Bid Price 3,550,000.00

LOT 24 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 264 sqm.
Lot 3 Blk 15White Lily St., Victoneta North Subd., Brgy Potrero, Bo. Tinajeros
Minimum Bid Price 3,700,000.00

MANDALUYONG CITY

LOT 25 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 375 & 135 sqm.
Lot 5-A Private Lane 7, Brgy. Barangka Ilaya
Minimum Bid Price 12,500,000.00

MANILA

LOT 26 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 150.9 sqm.
Lot 23, Sub-Block 2 Nepomuceno St., Brgy. 94, Zone 8 Tondo
Minimum Bid Price 1,549,000.00

LOT 27 - CONDO-RESDL
Floor Area 114.08 sqm.
Unit 802, Magdalena Mansion Condo, No. 940 Masangkay St., Binondo
Minimum Bid Price 3,936,000.00

LOT 28 - CONDO-COMML
Floor Area 105.46 sqm.
Unit 1611, F Tytana Plaza Condo. San Lorenzo Ruiz, Binondo
Minimum Bid Price 4,300,000.00

MARIKINA CITY

LOT 29 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 242.25 sqm.
Villaraza Compound, No 22 Bayabas St., Twin River Subdivision I, Barangay Nangka
Minimum Bid Price 1,050,000.00

LOT 30 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 132 sqm.
Floor Area 308 & 58.2 sqm.
594 E. Mendoza St., Palparan Subd., Sto. Niño
Minimum Bid Price 1,601,000.00

LOT 31 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 307 sqm.
Floor Area 468 sqm.
555 JP Rizal St., Malanday
Minimum Bid Price 6,399,000.00

MUNTINLUPA CITY

LOT 32 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 126 sqm.
Floor Area 96 sqm.
Lot 7 Emerald Hills Victoria Homes Subd., Tunasan
Minimum Bid Price 400,000.00

LOT 33 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 240 sqm.
Floor Area 144 & 412 sqm.
Lot 16 Blk 11 St. Mary St. Sto. Niño Vil., Brgy Tunasan
Minimum Bid Price 2,800,000.00

LOT 34 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 500 sqm.
Lot 9 Blk 7 Aragon St., Susana Heights Subd., Phase I
Minimum Bid Price 3,000,000.00

LOT 35 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 456 sqm.
Floor Area 261, 38 & 23 sqm.
30 Doña Ines St. Alabang Hills VII
Minimum Bid Price 5,848,000.00

LOT 36 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 471 sqm.
Floor Area 204 & 40 sqm.
915 Acacia St., Doña Rosario Heights Subd., Brgy. Sucat
Minimum Bid Price 3,500,000.00

NAVOTAS CITY

LOT 37 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 240 sqm.
Floor Area 216 sqm.
Road Lot 2 & Alley 1 Canvite Subd., Bo. Tanza
Minimum Bid Price 1,400,000.00

PARAÑAQUE CITY

LOT 38 - CONDO-COMML
Floor Area 80 sqm.
Unit C-08, Makati South Hills Condo, Brgy. San Martin De Porres
Minimum Bid Price 1,500,000.00

LOT 39 - CONDO-COMML
Floor Area 80 sqm.
Unit C-09, Makati South Hills Condo, Brgy. San Martin De Porres
Minimum Bid Price 1,500,000.00

LOT 40 - CONDO-COMML
Floor Area 80 sqm.
Unit C-10, Makati South Hills Condo Brgy. San Martin De Porres
Minimum Bid Price 1,500,000.00

LOT 41 - CONDO-COMML
Floor Area 80 sqm.
Unit C-11, Makati South Hills Condo, Brgy. San Martin De Porres
Minimum Bid Price 1,500,000.00

LOT 42 - CONDO-COMML
Floor Area 80 sqm.
Unit C-12, Makati South Hills Condo, Brgy. San Martin De Porres
Minimum Bid Price 1,500,000.00

LOT 43 - CONDO-COMML
Floor Area 102.2 sqm.
Unit C-07, Makati South Hills Condo, Brgy. San Martin De Porres
Minimum Bid Price 1,800,000.00

LOT 44 - CONDO-RESDL
Floor Area 60 sqm.
Unit 2004 Bayview International Towers, Tower 2, Roxas Blvd., Brgy. Tambo
Minimum Bid Price 2,000,000.00

LOT 45 - CONDO-RESDL
Floor Area 69 & 12.5 sqm.
Unit 504 Bayview International Towers, Tower 3, Roxas Blvd., Brgy. Tambo
Minimum Bid Price 2,600,000.00

LOT 46 - CONDO-RESDL
Floor Area 154 sqm.
Unit 1205 Bayview International Towers, Tower 3, Roxas Blvd., Brgy. Tambo
Minimum Bid Price 5,000,000.00

LOT 47 - CONDO-RESDL
Floor Area 176 & 12.5 sqm.
Unit 502 Bayview International Towers, Tower 1, Roxas Blvd., Brgy. Tambo
Minimum Bid Price 5,800,000.00

LOT 48 - CONDO-RESDL
Floor Area 185 & 12.5 sqm.
Unit 2001 Bayview International Towers, Tower 1, Roxas Blvd., Brgy. Tambo
Minimum Bid Price 6,800,000.00

LOT 49 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 263 sqm.
Lot 12 Blk 1, Sheryl Mirra St., Multinational Village, La Huerta
Minimum Bid Price 890,000.00

LOT 50 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 150 sqm.
Floor Area 119.12 sqm.
Lot 9 Blk 1, Rd. Lot 2. Equity Homes IV, San Isidro
Minimum Bid Price 900,000.00

LOT 51 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 1,057 sqm.
Lots 2-B-2-F 2-B-2-G, 2-B-2-H, 2-B-2-I, Erberta Cmpd., Salvador Estate, Brgy. San Dionisio
Minimum Bid Price 3,200,000.00

LOT 52 - TOWNHOUSE
Floor Area 193.87 sqm.
Unit Q, Tropicana Villa Condo. 632 Quirino Ave., Brgy. Tambo
Minimum Bid Price 3,200,000.00

LOT 53 - TOWNHOUSE
Floor Area 193.87 sqm.
Unit R, Tropicana Villa Condo, 632 Quirino Ave., Brgy. Tambo
Minimum Bid Price 3,200,000.00

LOT 54 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 280 sqm.
Floor Area 241.96 & 22.44 sqm.
45 Biyuleta St., Tahanan Village
Minimum Bid Price 3,500,000.00

PASAY CITY

LOT 55 - TOWNHOUSE
Floor Area 62.5 sqm.
No. 22 EDSA Mansion 1, No. 670 EDSA, Brgy. San Roque
Minimum Bid Price 2,800,000.00

LOT 56 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 1,029 sqm.
2530 Int. M. Dela Cruz St., Brgy. San Roque
Minimum Bid Price 9,300,000.00

LOT 57 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 579 sqm.
Lots 208-F, 208-D 208-E F. Sanchez St., Brgy 82 Zone 10 San Rafael District
Minimum Bid Price 9,843,000.00

PASIG CITY

LOT 58 - CONDO-COMML
Floor Area 154.84 sqm.
Units 501 & 502 Pacific Center, San Miguel Ave., Ortigas Center
Minimum Bid Price 5,000,000.00

QUEZON CITY

LOT 59 - CONDO-COMML
Floor Area 35 sqm.
Unit 104 GF, Xaverville Royale Condo, Xaverville Ave
Minimum Bid Price 950,000.00

LOT 60 - CONDO-RESDL
Floor Area 97.42 & 12.5 sqm.
Roofdeck 1B, Penthouse Heart of the City Condo, 40 Sgt. Esguerra cor Sct. Albano Sts., Diliman
Minimum Bid Price 2,600,000.00

LOT 61 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 329 sqm.
Lot 1081-M Camarin Road. Brgy. Camarin, Novaliches
Minimum Bid Price 1,100,000.00

LOT 62 - TOWNHOUSE
Lot Area 54 sqm.
Floor Area 78.6 sqm.
Lot 15 Blk 3 Dionisio Royale Exec Homes, 38 Beethoven St., Brgy. Sauyo
Minimum Bid Price 1,250,000.00

LOT 63 - TOWNHOUSE
Lot Area 54 sqm.
Floor Area 78.6 sqm.
Lot 21 Blk 3 Dionisio Royale Exec Homes, 38 Beethoven St., Brgy. Sauyo
Minimum Bid Price 1,250,000.00

LOT 64 - TOWNHOUSE
Lot Area 54 sqm.
Floor Area 78.6 sqm.
Lot 24 Blk 3 Dionisio Royale Exec Homes, 38 Beethoven St., Brgy. Sauyo
Minimum Bid Price 1,250,000.00

LOT 65 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 400 sqm.
Lot 10 Blk 5 Rd. Lot 2 cor Rd Lot 3, Sunny-side Heights Subd.
Minimum Bid Price 1,300,000.00

LOT 66 - TOWNHOUSE
Lot Area 50 sqm.
Floor Area 114 sqm.
Unit H Cassanova Townhouse, Brgy. Culiat
Minimum Bid Price 1,425,000.00

LOT 67 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 329 sqm.
Floor Area 194 sqm.
Lot 1 Blk 8 Greenfields Subd., Ph. 1, Brgy. Kaligayahan, Novaliches
Minimum Bid Price 1,933,000.00

LOT 68 - TOWNHOUSE
Floor Area 137.84 sqm.
Unit 304 Woodland Townhomes, 5th Ave., Cubao
Minimum Bid Price 1,995,000.00

LOT 69 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 207 sqm.
Floor Area 539 sqm.
4 San Pedro St., Brgy. Del Monte, San Francisco Del Monte
Minimum Bid Price 2,697,000.00

LOT 70 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 400 sqm.
37 Masambahin St., Teacher's Village East
Minimum Bid Price 7,306,000.00

LOT 71 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 400 sqm.
Floor Area 35, 114 & 193 sqm.
15 Zamboanga St. Brgy. Nayong Kanluran
Minimum Bid Price 7,320,000.00

LOT 72 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 1,803 sqm.
Lot 25 Blk 17 Grant St., Filinvest II Subd., Capitol Dist.
Minimum Bid Price 7,840,000.00

LOT 73 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 523 sqm.
Floor Area 369, 40 & 13 sqm.
3 Rivera cor Astoria Sts. St. Ignatius Vill.
Minimum Bid Price 9,730,000.00

LOT 74 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 600 sqm.
Floor Area 479 sqm.
26 Hillside Drive, Blue Ridge A Subd., Quirino Dist.
Minimum Bid Price 11,300,000.00

LOT 75 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 1,078.5 sqm.
Quirino Highway, Brgy. San Bartolome, Novaliches
Minimum Bid Price 13,750,000.00

SAN JUAN

LOT 76 - CONDO-RESDL
Floor Area 169.35 & 10.12 sqm.
Unit 304 Goldhill Tower Condo, 5 Annapolis St., Greenhills
Minimum Bid Price 3,300,000.00

LOT 77 - CONDO-RESDL
Floor Area 169.35 & 10.12 sqm.
Unit 603 Goldhill Tower Condo. 5 Annapolis St., Greenhills
Minimum Bid Price 3,500,000.00

VALENZUELA CITY

LOT 78 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 398 sqm.
Lot 5 Blk 2 F. Lazaro St. Canumay
Minimum Bid Price 800,000.00

LOT 79 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 2,000 sqm.
Lot 363-A-1-1-1, St. James St., Skylife Subd., Bo. Beinte Reales
Minimum Bid Price 3,200,000.00

LOT 80 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 3,012 sqm.
Floor Area 170, 68 & 164 sqm.
378 Gatas St., Brgy. Bignay
Minimum Bid Price 3,300,000.00

LOT 81 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 240 sqm.
Floor Area 332 sqm.
Batangas cor. Kona St., Arbortowne Subd., Brgy. Karuhatan
Minimum Bid Price 3,800,000.00

LOT 82 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 1,200 sqm.
Floor Area 1,185.07 sqm.
Cayetano St., Brgy. Karuhatan
Minimum Bid Price 7,500,000.00

LOT 83 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 2,514 sqm.
Floor Area 740, 600 & 792 sqm.
Franco Enterprises Compound Brgy. Bagbaguin
Minimum Bid Price 8,000,000.00

LOT 84
WITHDRAWN

LOT 85 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 3,014 sqm.
Floor Area 2,217, 309, 5.5 & 36 sqm.
72 R. Jacinto St., Brgy. Canumay
Minimum Bid Price 16,820,000.00

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REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

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Batangas 2.2 Has w/ 300 sqm Hse High value trees nr Golf Course, Mall 09164175181 & 8422015

HOUSE

MANILA

House/Bedspacers 1500-7000 Call AJ 09204136412 5610960

QUEZON CITY

HOUSE 4 RENT #3 Soli St., Basra Proj 6, QC 929-5711

CONDO/TWNHSE

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Le Metropole
3 BR unit, FF, 179 sqm.
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CONDO/TWNHSE

QUEZON CITY

Burgundy Katipunan fronting Ateneo 2BR furn rent19Tneg 0917-8550207•0917-6303454

1BR Studio Type 30m² P2.5T /mo 0917-9665772 Dennis

MANILA

Samp 6459302 - 7841746

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09178553925

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LB (Land Bank) Realty Development Corporation

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID

All contractors, registered and/or classified by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) for Buildings and Industrial Plant and preferably with experience in the construction of bank building or projects of identical scope of works and technology, are invited to apply for pre-qualification and to submit their bids for the renovation/construction of LBP BRANCH OFFICE.

Branch Office	Location	Category
LBP U.P. MIAG-AO	MIAG-AO, ILO	MEDIUM

Pre-qualification requirements may be obtained from the Purchasing Unit of the Land Bank Realty Development Corporation at 30th Flr. LBP Plaza, 598 M.H. del Pilar corner J. Quintos Sts., Malate, Manila. LBRDC reserves the right to change the cost estimates, the date of issuance of bid documents, pre-bid conference, submission of bids and date of bidding. Due notice of changes shall however be communicated by LBRDC to invited bidders.

LBRDC likewise reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or formality, assume no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expense or loss that they may incur in the preparation of their bid and to accept the bid most advantageous to the company.

For further details, please call Eng'r. Jaime S. Mendoza/Allan G. Redondo/Aries L. Mendoza at 405-7169/405-7402/405-7135.

(Sgd.)
Chairman
Committee on Bids and Awards

(PDI--July 25, 2005)

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

RESORT LEASE/ RENT

Pansol Hot Spring priv 7767507

LOAN & MORTGAGE

BUSINESS . DOCTOR 524-3197

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Patriot Construction has changed its business name and is now presently registered as **R.F. FLORES CONSTRUCTION** under the same proprietorship, Rolando F. Flores.

(PDI--July 25, 2005)

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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
BUTUAN CITY WATER DISTRICT
Gov. Jose A. Rosales Avenue, Butuan City
Telephone # (085) 342-3145/46
Fax # (085) 341-5008; 8151268
Email address: bcwd2@skyinet.net

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Butuan City Water District hereby invites suppliers and distributors to apply for eligibility and to bid, in accordance with I.R.R. of R.A. 9184, for the supply and delivery of Water Meters:

Qty.	Items/Description
7,420 pcs.	Water Meter Assembly, ½ "ø Non-Reversible Reading

Approved Budget: Php 4,900,000.00

Interested applicants shall submit to the BAC Secretariat, during its business hours, five (5) pieces Water Meter Assembly samples which shall be subjected to Calibration and Endurance Tests upon payment of Testing Fee of Php850.00. Deadline for submission of samples shall be on August 5, 2005. Only applicants duly notified that their samples passed the test shall be qualified to purchase bidding documents and participate in the bidding.

Specifications, details and bidding documents are available to qualified applicants upon payment of non-refundable fee of Php 2,000.00 from date of notification until the morning of August 15, 2005 at the BAC Secretariat during its business hours. Bid documents sent by mail or forwarder upon request of the applicants not received on time shall not be the responsibility of the Bids and Awards Committee

Pre-bid Conference shall be held on August 15 2005 at 2:00 P.M. BCWD Time at the Training Hall of BCWD Administration Building. Submission and opening of sealed bids shall follow on August 29 2005 at the same time and venue.

Butuan City Water District reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any defect or formality therein, to assume no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids, and to accept the offer most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd) **JORGE L. GUDUYO, C.E.**
Chair, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI-July 18 & 25, 2005)

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

LOAN & MORTGAGE

1.4% MONTHLY 8976644-46
LAS PINAS 8054326 / 6342
QUEZON CITY 3730239-40
CAINTA/PASIG 2401300/3500

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TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CARS FOR RENT

CAR VANS 929-2811

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1.5% Auto Express 5221001-02

1.5% CARLOAN 373-6519

1.5% CARLOAN 788-0361

1.5% Easy Car Loan 4112547/48

1.5% Easy Car Loan 3748765

1.5% Easy Carloan 7815352/55

1.5% w/oTaking Car 7228942-43

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3650974/75

1Hour Car Loan 9153460
2%w/o taking car 6560140

2% w/o taking car 7880183-84

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2% w/oTaking Car 8959454

2% w/oTaking Car 8870490/95

2% w/oTaking Car 8966630/33

2% w/oTaking Car 3732081/82

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/out taking car 5315577

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Republic of the Philippines
National Electrification Administration
Quezon City

Needed immediately

GENERAL MANAGER

for

LEYTE IV ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. (LEYECO IV)
Hilongos, Leyte

Qualifications:

- 30-50 years old
- Male or Female
- Graduate of Business Administration, Engineering (Electrical, Mechanical, ECE), Accounting, Finance, Management or Behavioral Science
- With Master's Degree or Post-Graduate Degree preferred
- Must have at least five (5) years managerial experience in a utility-related business enterprise
- Computer literate
- Must be willing to relocate with his/her family in Hilongos, Leyte

Starting Salary : P30,000.00

Application form and additional information may be obtained from the Institutional Development Department, 6th floor, NEA Building, NIA Road, Diliman, Quezon City. Deadline for submission of application form is on 15 August 2005.

(Sgd.) **EDITA S. BUENO**
Administrator

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
BID AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
(Head Office)

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The **BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS (BSP)** invites Consultants to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid for the **Architectural, Engineering and Interior Design Consultancy Services** for the proposed Space Rationalization, Planning and Furniture Standardization Project of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Main Complex.

The Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) for this consultancy services is **P11.0 Million.**

The scope of the work includes among others the preparation of a space rationalization program based on the proper zoning of all BSP Main Complex departments and offices to be able to consolidate these into 1 or 2 buildings taking into consideration security and parking requirements and the new BSP Organizational Structure; the space planning and all related engineering works for the implementation of the Space Rationalization program of all BSP departments and offices including the preparation of plans, specifications and cost estimates for all necessary office relocation and renovation works; and the design and preparation of the technical specifications and layout of standard furniture for the BSP

The minimum eligibility requirements are as follows

1.0 The firm must have been in operation for the last fifteen (15) years (reckoned from the date of the first advertisement/posting of this invitation).

2.0 The firm must have rendered within the last ten (10) years (reckoned from the date of the first advertisement/posting of this invitation) Architectural, Engineering and Interior Design Consultancy services, at least five (5) completed projects of similar nature like offices, banks, exchanges and financial institutions of similar magnitude as the proposed BSP project and must be able to submit a certification of satisfactory performance for at least three (3) of the required five (5) projects

3.0 The Principal or Managing Officer must be a Registered Architect with at least twenty (20) years experience in architectural design and coordinating team efforts in A & E design

4.0 The key personnel should be Registered Architect/s, Interior Designer/s and Engineer/s with at least fifteen (15) years design experience.

5.0 The firm (partnership/corporation/joint venture) must be at least 60% owned by a Filipino citizen. (Foreign consultants must be registered with SEC and/or any agency authorized by the laws of the Philippines

6.0 In case of a joint venture, a valid joint venture agreement shall be required. The joint venture must have rendered A and E design Consultancy Services for at least two (2) completed projects of similar magnitude as the proposed BSP project.

7.0 For those firms with previous or current Design Consultancy Services with the BSP, a certificate of satisfactory performance issued by the Bank must be submitted.

The quality-cost based evaluation procedure stipulated in the Implementing Rules and Regulations of RA No. 9184 shall be adopted for this consultancy service requirement.

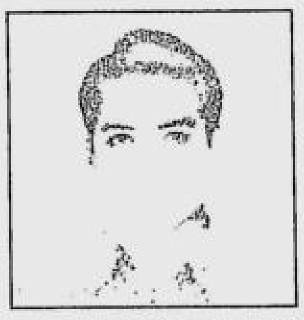
Eligibility documents may be obtained from the BAC Secretariat on **July 26 to August 08, 2005** for a non-refundable fee of P200.00, Room 204 2nd Floor, Five Storey Building at the BSP Main Complex, A. Mabini cor. P. Ocampo Streets, Manila and must be submitted duly accomplished to the same office not later than 4:30 p.m. on **August 15, 2005.**

The provisions of Republic Act No. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations relative to the bidding and award contract shall apply.

BSP reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive defect or any formality therein, or accept such bid or award any part thereof to any consultant/s whose bid/s is/are evaluated to be most advantageous to BSP. Furthermore, BSP is not obliged to compensate/indemnify the consultant for any expenses or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of bid nor does it guarantee that an award of contract will be made

(Sgd.) **JUAN DE ZUÑIGA, JR.**
Chairman

(PDI–July 25 & August 5, 2005)



NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the public that a warrant of arrest has been issued by the **Regional Trial Court - Branch 75** of Olongapo City against **Mr. Nestor Lopez Gomez, Jr.**, whose picture appears above, in connection with **Criminal Case No. 484-05 for Estafa.**

A reward awaits anyone who may have an information leading to the lawful arrest of Mr. Nestor Lopez Gomez, Jr., Please contact -

DeGuzman Celis & Dionisio Law Office
Counsel – eBusiness Services, Inc.
15/F STRATA 2000 Bldg., Emerald Ave.,
Ortigas Center, Pasig City
631-86-21

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PUBLIC NOTICES

AUCTION SALE

MUNOZ-BRIONES PAWNSHOP
Auction
August 1, 2005
All unredeemed article
from March 1-31, 2005
354 Roosevelt Ave QC 9AM
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VZamora-Auctioneer

PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is given that the estate of the late PANFILO M. BENOJAR has been extrajudicially settled among his heirs on July 23, 2005 before Pacifico A. Tunac, Notary Public in and for Quezon City as per Doc. No. 55, Page No.12, Book XIX, Series of 2005 (PDI-July 25, Aug. 1, & 8, 2005)

NOTICE is hereby given that the estate of the late FLORDELIZA R. ARMEA was extrajudicially settled with waiver on May 6, 2005 per Doc. No. 421, page No. 85, Book No. II, Series of 2005 of Notary Public Atty Jose Perlas of City of Manila. (PDI July 11, 18 & 25, 2005)

HOME DEVELOPMENT MUTUAL FUND

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Pag-IBIG Fund, through its Bids and Awards Committee - Information Technology Resources (BAC-ITR), invites qualified suppliers/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder projects:

Item No.	Name of Projects (Description)	Approved Budget for the Contract	Cost of bid Documents (Non-Refundable)
I	Supply and Delivery of various Computer Peripherals		
	CATEGORY I - PARTS (Re-Bidding)	P 2,429,554.00	P 500.00
	CATEGORY II - EQUIPMENT	P 592,900.00	
II	Supply and Delivery of various Intel Based Servers	P 21,029,000.00	P 4,500.00
III	Document Scanning Project	P 2,000,000.00	P 500.00

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last three (3) years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bid Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Item No.	ACTIVITIES					
	Issuance of Bid Documents	Pre-Bid Conference	Opening of Bids (tentative)	Bid Evaluation	Post-Qualification	Notice of Award
I	July 18, 2005	Aug. 4, 2005 1:30 p.m.	Aug. 18, 2005 1:30 p.m.	Aug. 19, 2005	Aug. 31, 2005	Sept. 16, 2005
II	July 18, 2005	Aug. 5, 2005 1:30 p.m.	Aug. 19, 2005 1:30 p.m.	Aug. 22, 2005	Sept. 1, 2005	Sept. 19, 2005
III	July 18, 2005	Aug. 11, 2005 1:30 p.m.	Aug. 25, 2005 1:30 p.m.	Aug. 26, 2005	Sept. 7, 2005	Sept. 23, 2005

Eligibility Requirements, Terms of Reference and Bid Forms may be obtained from the Procurement Section, General Services 7th floor, Atrium of Makati Condominium, Makati Avenue, Makati City.

Pre-Bid Conference, Submission of Eligibility Requirements and Opening of Bid Proposals shall be conducted at Room 602, 6th Floor, Pag-IBIG Fund Multi-Purpose Hall, The Atrium of Makati Condominium, Makati Ave., Makati City.

The Pag-IBIG Fund reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any informality or accept such bids as may be considered advantageous to the government. Further, the Fund assumes no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for expenses or losses that may be incurred in participating in this bidding.

For further inquiries and/or information, please call Messrs. Carlos A. Latorre, Jose Maria M. Diaz or Cesar V. Racoma at 811-42-62, 894-58-15 or visit our Corporate Website at http://www.pagibigfund.gov.ph or e-mail us at hdmfgpis@info.com.ph.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. OBERLIN L. PASTORES**
Vice President, Legal and General Counsel Group
Chair, BAC - ITR

(PDI--July 18 & 25, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
Fifth Judicial Region
Branch 40
Daet, Camarines Norte

IN THE MATTER OF CANCELLATION OR CORRECTION OF ENTRY IN THE LOCAL CIVIL REGISTRY AND CHANGE OF NAME OF MELANIE HANTAL STIBICK/KATRINA GRABADOR TO KATRINA GRABADOR;

SPL. PROC. NO. 1357

MELANIE HANTAL STIBICK/KATRINA GRABADOR, assisted by her guardian MARIANO EBRON SAMONTE,
Petitioner

- *versus* -

CIVIL REGISTRARS OF MERCEDES, CAMARINES NORTE and SINILOAN, LAGUNA and ROQUE SAMONTE,
Respondents.

ORDER

Petitioner Melanie Hantal Stibick/Katrina Grabador is a minor and is represented by her guardian Mariano Ebron Samonte Carmelita Cadian Hantal was married to Moises Grabador and they begot a child named Melania Hantal Grabador who was born on May 16, 1977. When Moises died, Carmelita married an American surnamed "Stibick". From then on, Carmelita and Melania began using the surname Stibick. When they went to the US, Melania was enrolled with the Social Security System as Melania Hantal Stibick on the belief that her surname automatically became Stibick when her mother Carmelita married the American. Later on, Melania went back to the country and on November 15, 1994, she gave birth to petitioner at Siniloan, Laguna, out of wedlock and of unknown father. However, petitioner was erroneously registered with the LCR of Siniloan, Laguna as Melanie Hantal Stibick on the belief that petitioner could also use the surname Stibick inasmuch as the petitioner's mother Melania is Stibick. In 1997, when Melania went back to America, she trusted the petitioner to herein guardian. The situation became more complicated when in February, 2002, a certain Roque Samonte registered petitioner anew with the LCR of Mercedes, Camarines Norte as Katrina Grabador. It was made to appear that the father of petitioner is Roque Samonte and she was born on November 7, 1994. Since then, petitioner is using the name Katrina Grabador. Since the petitioner is an illegitimate child, she should bear the correct surname of her mother-Grabador. Inasmuch as the entries in her Certificate of Live Birth are inaccurate, those entries must be cancelled. The foregoing is necessary to establish the real identity of the petitioner, to protect her from further emotional suffering brought about by confusion in her identity and to eliminate any legal obstacle. She prayed that: (1.) her name be changed to Katrina Grabador; and (ii.) it be accordingly entered with the civil registry that she is the daughter of Melania Hantal Grabador (now Melanie Hantal Stibick) and was born out of wedlock with unknown father in Siniloan, Laguna on November 15, 1994.

Finding the petition to be sufficient in form and in substance, the same is given due course. Set the initial hearing of the petition on August 12, 2005 at 8:30 a.m. and giving notice to anyone who may have objection hereto to file their opposition on or before the date of initial hearing.

Let a copy of the order be published at the petitioner's expenses in a newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks before the date set for initial hearing. Notify all the parties concerned.

SO ORDERED

Given this 24th day of June, 2005 at Daet, Camarines Norte

ROLANDO M. PANGANIBAN
Presiding Judge

(PDI--July 18, 25 & Aug. 1, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
National Capital Judicial Region
METROPOLITAN TRIAL COURT
City of Makati, Branch 67

MECHANICAL HANDLING EQUIPMENT CO., INC.,
Plaintiff

versus -

ANTHONY C. FLORES,
Defendant

ORDER

The Motion to Serve Copy Of Decision By Publication filed by the plaintiff, through counsel, is GRANTED.

The Branch Clerk of Court is directed to comply with the provisions of OCA Circular No. 5-2002.

SO ORDERED.

City of Makati, June 3, 2005.

RICO SEBASTIAN D. LIWANAG
Presiding Judge

— oOo —

Republic of the Philippines
National Capital Judicial Region
METROPOLITAN TRIAL COURT
City of Makati Branch 67

MECHANICAL HANDLING EQUIPMENT CO., INC.,
Plaintiff.

versus -

ANTHONY C. FLORES,
Defendant.

DECISION

The instant Complaint is for a Sum of Money filed on 25 April 2003 by plaintiff Mechanical Handling Equipment Co. Inc. against defendant Anthony C. Flores: - - - - -

On 24 July 2003, for failure of defendant Anthony C. Flores to file an Answer within the reglementary period, he was declared in default and plaintiff was allowed to present its evidence ex-parte.

Accounting Department Head Gloria Elizabeth Tolentino and Vice -President for Finance and Administration Veronica L. Co testified that defendant *Anthony C. Flores* was a former Sales Supervisor assigned at plaintiff's branch office in Cebu City.[2] Upon plaintiff's investigation, it was found out that as Sales Supervisor, he made cash advances, used company funds and received payments from clients worth P255,993.00 which he failed to remit and remained under his account.[3] On 17 March 2003, he resigned without having remitted said amount, however, acknowledged his indebtedness to plaintiff and promised to settle it.[4] Nevertheless, he failed to comply such that a demand letter dated 05 April 2003 was sent to him but to no avail.[5] To protect its interest, with the claim remaining unsettled, plaintiff instituted the present suit claiming said amount plus P100,000.00 as other damages, legal interest, Attorney's fees and cost of suit.

By preponderance of evidence, plaintiff was able to prove its cause of action against defendant Anthony C. Flores. The latter is liable to pay the former P255,993.60 plus interest rate of 12% per annum from 20 March 2003 until fully paid. Inasmuch as plaintiff was constrained to resort to judicial action to protect its interest, Attorney's fees is awarded which is set at a reasonable amount of P10,000.00. the cost of suit is also properly chargeable against defendant.

WHEREFORE, judgment is rendered is declaring defendant Anthony C. Flores liable to pay plaintiff Mechanical Handling Equipment Co., Inc. the following amounts

1. P255,993.60 plus interest of 12% per annum from 20 March 2003 until full payment;
2. P10,000.00 as Attorney's fees; and
3. Cost of suit.

SO ORDERED.

Makati City , 02 April 2004.

EVELYN S. ARCAYA-CHUA
Pairing Judge

(PDI--July 18, 25 & Aug. 1, 2005)

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PRAYER TO BLESSED MOTHER
(NEVER KNOWN TO FAIL)
Oh most beautiful flower of Mount Carmel, fruitful vine splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in this necessity. Oh star of the sea, help me and show herein you are my Mother. Oh Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech You from the bottom of My Heart to succor me in this necessity. There are none that can withstand Your power. Oh Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recoursed to thee (3x). Holy Mother, I place this course in your hands (3x) Sweet Mother, I place this course in Your hands (3x). Holy Spirit, You who solve all problems so that I can attain my goal. You who gave me the divine gift to forgive and forget all evil against me and that in all instances in my life You are with me. I want this short prayer. Thank you for all things as I confirm once again that I never want to be separated from You in eternal glory Thank you for Your mercy towards me and mine. The person must say this prayer 3 consecutive days. After 3 days the request will be granted. This prayer must be published after the favor is granted.

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"...absent from the body to be present with the Lord."
— 2 Corinthians 5:8

In Loving Memory
Second Death Anniversary

Pilar Arriola vda. de Martinez

"PILINA"

Her family request relatives, friends and the pious reader to pray for the eternal repose of her soul. Holy Masses will be celebrated tomorrow, July 26, 2005 at the following churches:

San Agustin Church – Intramuros	7:00 AM/5:30 PM
St. Andrew's Parish – Bel Air II, Makati	6:30 AM/12:15 PM/6:30 PM
Blessed Sacrament Church – Sta. Cruz	8:00 AM
PGH Hospital Chapel – Taft Avenue	12:00 Noon
Ermita Church – M.H. del Pilar, Mla.	12:15 PM
Chapel of the Eucharistic Lord – Megamall	12:15 PM / 6:00 PM

"Even when I walk through a dark valley, I feel no harm. For you are at my side, your rod and staff give me courage..."
Psalm 23:4

Jose P. Mecenas, Sr.

has joined his Creator and wife, (†)Natividad Ronquillo on July 24, 2005 at the age of 78.

His bereaved children **Linda & Pipo**, **Joey & Teresa**, **Bambi**, **Eric & Lucy**, and **Stella**; grandchildren, **Lizza**, **Jackie**, **Lawrence**, **Chow**, **Paolo**, **Marc**, **Carla** and **Babe Ruth**; sisters **Ofelia** and **Violeta**, nephews and nieces, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Chapel L, La Funeraria Paz, Araneta Ave., Quezon City.

Cremation will be at Paz Crematory on Thursday, July 28, 2005 after the 8:00 a.m. Mass.

In Loving Memory

On the 10th Death Anniversary of

ESTELA M. PEÑAFLORIDA

who passed away on 26 July 1995

Masses will be offered Tuesday, 26 July 2005 at the following:

Sanctuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park	12:15 noon
Sanctuario de San Jose, Greenhills	7:15 a.m.
St. Alphonsus Mary de Liguori, Magallanes	6:00 p.m.
Our Lady of Beautiful Love, Merville	6:00 p.m.
Parish of the Holy Sacrifice, UP	6:00 p.m.
St. Joseph's Church, Pototan, Iloilo	5:30 a.m.
St. Clement's Church, La Paz, Iloilo	5:30 p.m.

The family requests relatives, friends and pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.
Matthew 10:39

Jesus said *"I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies, and whoever believes in Me will never die."*

Engr. JOSE A. MACARUBBO

May 5, 1926 – July 17, 2005

Peacefully passed away at the Memorial Medical Center in Modesto, California on July 17, 2005 at the age of 79.

His loving wife **Mercedes**, children and grandchildren and great granddaughter

Evan
Josef (†) *Jeremy* and *Odette* and *Adi*
June Marisse

Finnette and Francis
Moses, Mathew, Mary Joy

Marie Jean and Mark
Justin, John-John

Merle and Junie
Katrina and *Kendra*

John (†)

Grace

Malou and Ariel
Louis Martin, Paolo
Mariel, Andre

His sisters **Juanita** and **Iluminada** with her children **Mojet**, **Irish** and **Cris** with their children request your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels, 12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Wednesday, July 27, 2005 at the **Eternal Gardens Memorial Park**.

CLASSIFIEDS

Republic of the Philippines
National Power Corporation
MAGAT RIVER HYDROELECTRIC PLANT
Brgy. Gen. Aguinaldo, Ramon, Isabela

RE-INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

(3rd Advertisement)

The NPC-Magat Hydroelectric Power Plant (MHEPP) is inviting interested private janitorial and manpower agencies for the SUPPLY OF LABOR, TOOLS/EQUIPMENT, MATERIALS AND SUPPLIES AND SUPERVISION RELATED TO JANITORIAL/LAWN AND GARDEN/LANDSCAPING AND SUPPLY OF TECHNICAL, SKILLED, SEMI-SKILLED, UNSKILLED AND CLERICAL SUPPORT MANPOWER SERVICES for a contract period of two (2) years with an Approved Budget for the Contract of P8,900,000.00.

Applicant(s) who may Apply for Eligibility and to Bid shall meet the following requirements:

1. Duly registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) and/or Department of Trade and Industry (DTI); or
2. Duly registered with the Cooperative Development Authority (CDA), in case of Cooperative

Complete set of Eligibility and Bid Documents shall be available for issuance starting **July 18 to 29, 2005**, upon submission and presentation of photocopy of SEC/DTI/CDA to the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) c/o the Secretariat, Administration Division between 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM during weekdays and payment of a non-refundable fee of **One Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (P1,500.00)**.

Pre-bid Conference and Opening of Bids (Single Stage Bidding) will be on the following dates:

Pre-bid Conference
Date : *August 05, 2005*
Time : *9:00 AM*
Venue : *MHEP Conference Room*

Submission & Opening of Bids
Date : *August 18, 2005*
Time : *9:00 AM*
Venue : *MHEP Conference Room*

The determination of eligibility shall be based on the submission of the required documents, utilizing the prescribed forms and using the non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria stated in the IRR of RA 9184.

The bidder with Lowest Calculated Bid will be subject to Post-qualification procedure before an award is made. Bid prices submitted higher than the Approved Budget shall be rejected and returned outright.

(Sgd.) W.R. FERRER
Chairman, Bids and Awards Commitee

(PDI–July 18 & 25, 2005)

PNOC ENERGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION PNOC
Energy Center Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila
Philippines MCPO Box 2102 Tel. No. 893-6001/1320

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO RE- BID

PNOC-Energy Development Corporation (PNOC-EDC) invites interested contractors to apply for eligibility and to re-bid for the project:

Palinpinon II Optimization Geothermal Project
(Full Turnkey 20 MW Geothermal Power Plant)
EDC 02-253-1

The Approved Budget is PhP 1,619,970,000.00 chargeable against PNOC-EDC fund. The contract duration is twenty-three (23) months.

Application for Eligibility may be secured from the PNOC-EDC Contracts Administration Group - BAC Secretariat from July 15, 2005 until August 15, 2005 upon payment of a non-refundable fee of US Dollars: Five Hundred (US$ 500.00).

For the purpose of clarifying the eligibility requirements, a clarificatory meeting will be held on 10:00 a.m. of July 27 2005 at the Board Room, Fourth Floor, Building V, Energy Center, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City.

Application for Eligibility and Letter of Intent must be submitted to the PNOC-EDC Contracts Administration Group - BAC Secretariat at First Floor, Building V, Energy Center, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City not later than 2:00 p.m. (Contracts Administration Group - BAC Secretariat Office Wall Clock Time) of August 15, 2005.

Bid documents will be available for issuance to eligible bidders on August 30, 2005 upon payment of the non-refundable fee of US Dollars: Two Thousand (US$ 2,000.00).

Site inspection is on September 21, 2005. For the purpose of clarifying certain issues, a pre-bid conference will be held on September 27, 2005, 10:00 a.m. at the Board Room, Fourth Floor, Building V, Energy Center, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City.

Initial Technical Proposals shall be received by the PNOC-EDC Contracts Administration Group - BAC Secretariat at First Floor, Building V, Energy Center, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City not later than 10:00 a.m (Contracts Administration Group - BAC Secretariat Office Wall Clock Time) of October 24, 2005.

Sealed Final Technical Bids and sealed Price Proposals shall be received by the PNOC-EDC Contracts Administration Group - BAC Secretariat at First Floor, Building V, Energy Center, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City not later than 10:00 a.m. (Contracts Administration Group - BAC Secretariat Office Wall Clock Time) of January 19, 2006 and shall be publicly opened immediately thereafter.

PNOC-EDC reserves the right to reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any informality therein, to accept such bids or to award any part of the work to any bidder whose bid is considered most advantageous to PNOC-EDC

BAC CHAIRMAN

(PDI–July 25, 2005)

TransCo
National Transmission Corporation

July 20, 2005
BCMD-p05-668

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

Republic of the Philippines
Supply and Delivery of Steel Poles for CY 2006

The Contract shall be for the Supply and Delivery of 2,800 Steel Poles composed of 602 pieces of 55 ft., Type B, Class I Steel Poles; 910 pieces of 50 ft., Type B, Class 2 Steel Poles, and 1,288 pieces of 55 ft., Type B, Class 2 Steel Poles in accordance with Transco Specifications and Schedule of Requirements of the Bidding Documents (BCMD 2005-013)

1. **The NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION (TRANSCO)**, through the Annual Corporate Budget for the Contract approved by TransCo Board intends to apply the sum of Philippine Peso 170,185,400.00 being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the Supply and Delivery of Steel Poles for CY 2006 (BCMD.2005-0013). Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
2. **TRANSCO** now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the **Supply and Delivery of Steel Poles, Direct Burial application in medium corrosive atmospheric condition, galvanized, ASTM A572/A607** as per latest TransCo Approved Specifications. Delivery of GOODS is required within **120 calendar days from contract effectivity**. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorship, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from **TRANSCO** and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of ***Philippine Peso 15,000.00***. The method of payment will be on cash basis only. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
6. **TRANSCO** will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on ***August 9, 2005, 10:00 A.M.*** *at H. C. Gaerlan Function Room, Power Training Center Building, National Transmission Corporation, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City, Metro Manila, Philippines.*
7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before ***August 25, 2005, 10:00 A.M.*** All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form and in the amount specified in Section III of the Bidding Documents, BDS or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. Late Bids shall not be accepted.
8. Bid opening shall be on ***August 9, 2005, 10:00 A.M.*** *at H. C. Gaerlan Function Room, Power Training Center Building, National Transmission Corporation, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City, Metro Manila, Philippines.* Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the said address.
9. The bidding is also open to Foreign bidders with eligibility requirements described above and in the Bidding Documents.
10. **TRANSCO** reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contact award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

MR. JOSE MARI M. ILAGAN
Manager, Bids and Contracts Management Department
Ground Floor, TransCo Main Building, Power Center
NationalTransmission Corporation
Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road
1104 Diliman, Quezon City, Metro Manila, PHILIPPINES
Telephone Nos. 981-4652; 981-2212; 981-2213
Tele Fax No.: 921-2308
Email address: jmilagan@transco.ph
http://www.transco.ph

(Sgd.) GUILLERMO R. REDOBLADO
VP-Luzon Operation & Maintenance
and Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – July 25, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
ZAMBOANGA CITY SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE AUTHORITY
San Ramon, Zamboanga City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

ONE (1) LOT SECURITY SERVICES FOR THE ZAMBOANGA CITY SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE AUTHORITY

1. **The Zamboanga City Special Economic Zone Authority**, through the **Corporate Operating Budget CY 2005** intends to apply the sum of **Four Million Six Hundred Twenty-Two Thousand Four Hundred Pesos Only (PhP 4,622,400.00)** being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for **One (1) Lot Security Services for the Zamboanga City Special Economic Zone Authority/ PR No. 05-07-009**. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
2. **The Zamboanga City Special Economic Zone Authority** now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for **One (1) Lot Security Services for the Zamboanga City Special Economic Zone Authority**. Delivery of the GOODS is required by **One (1) Year**. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in the Instructions to Bidders (ITB).
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in the ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
4. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below on **July 26, 2005 to August 1, 2005** and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of **One Thousand Pesos Only (PhP 1,000.00)**. The method of payment will be Cash, Certified Check, Cashier's Check, or Manager's Check. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
5. The **Zamboanga City Special Economic Zone Authority** will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on **August 4, 2005 at 10:00 AM** at the **Audio Visual Room, 3rd Floor, ZAMBOECOZONE Administration Building, San Ramon, Zamboanga City.**
6. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before **10:00 AM,August 17, 2005**. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form of Cash, Certified Check, Cashier's Check, and Manager's Check and in the amount of **Forty-Six Thousand Two Hundred Twenty-Four Only (PhP 46,224.00)**. GSIS Surety Bond in the amount of **One Hundred Fifteen Thousand Five Hundred Sixty (PhP 115,560.00)** or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. Late Bids shall not be accepted.
7. Bid opening shall be on **August 17, 2005 at 10:00 AM at the AVR, 3rd Floor, ZAMBOECOZONE Administration Building, San Ramon, Zamboanga City**. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.
8. The Zamboanga City Special Economic Zone Authority requires the following:

I	Forty (40) Security Guards
II	Firearms, Ammunitions, and Accessories
	6 units M-16 Armalite Rifle 3 units 12 Gauge Shotgun 4 units .38 Caliber Revolver or 9mm Pistol 600 rounds Ammunitions for M-16 Armalite Rifle 150 rounds Ammunitions for 12 Gauge Shotgun 120 rounds Ammunitions for .38 Caliber Revolver or 9 mm Pistol 30 pcs. M-16 Armalite Magazines 3 pcs. 12 Gauge Shotgun Bandolier
III	Communication Equipment
	1 unit VHF Base Radio 13 units VHF Handheld Radio 13 units Fast Charger 13 units back-up Rechargeable Battery Pack
IV	Transportation
	1 unit 4x4 Pick-up Vehicle (4-wheel Drive) 1 unit 155 cc Single Motorcycle (4 strokes)
V	Miscellaneous Equipment
	1 unit Vehicle Inspection Mirror 2 pcs. Portable Metal Detector 40 pcs. Flashlight 40 pcs. Raincoat

Evaluation of Bids will be based on the condition of the firearms, communication Equipment, and transportation offered.

9. The Zamboanga City Special Economic Authority reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

(Sgd.) **GEORGINA PANTALEON-YU**
Chairman and Administrator
Zamboanga City Special Economic Zone Authority
Administration Building, San Ramon, Zamboanga City
Tel. No. (062) 992-0409, Telefax No. (062) 993-0209
E-mail: Ecozone_bac@yahoo.com

(PDI--July 18 & 25, 2005)

BUSINESS

EPCIB STANDOFF

BSP: Brawl shouldn't affect bank affairs

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE TWO groups wrestling for control of Equitable PCI Bank have given their word to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas that the standoff in the boardroom would not disrupt banking operations.

In a press briefing on Friday, BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said that he had separately met with the two boards of EPCIBank and both vowed to keep their feud from spilling over to the entire organization.

"The two groups have given the assurance that they will allow the management of the bank to perform its day-to-day functions," Tetangco said.

Tetangco said it was clear to all parties that the battle for control of the bank should be fought in another arena—the judicial courts.

A group led by the state-owned pension funds Social Security System and Government Service Insurance System, along with the Romualdez family, walked out of EPCIBank's annual stockholders meeting on July 19 when the bank's corporate secretary Nilo Divina foiled their attempt to declare the position of chair vacant.

Claiming that they had the right to adjourn the meeting because they collectively held the majority stake, the SSS-GSIS group conducted their own meeting at a nearby hotel, elected their own board and installed Martin Romualdez as the new chair. The group headed by the Go family, on the other hand, conducted their own meeting and retained Antonio Go as chair.

The SSS-GSIS group, which said they mustered 54.6 percent voting rights in the bank, fired Divina as corporate secretary.

The Go family meanwhile retained Divina.

Tetangco said that the BSP's policy-making Monetary Board would still have to study the Go family's request to extend for five years an order to sell the disputed 10.8-percent stake in EPCIBank held by the bank's subsidiary EBC Investments Inc.

It was the same stake which the pension funds claimed was used by the Go family to create an "artificial" majority.

The Quasha Ancheta Peña and Nolasco law offices, whose counsel was sought by some directors of EPCIBank allied with the Go family, issued a legal opinion, declaring that the shares held by EBCII were not treasury shares and therefore could be voted by EBCII as owner of the block.

The law firm said that the shares were not reacquired by EPCIBank and were instead acquired pursuant to the merger between Equitable Bank and PCI.

"EBCII is the shareholder of record and beneficial owner, not EPCIBank," the counsels said. "Although a subsidiary of EPCIBank, EBCII has a separate personality and existence."

But the GSIS claimed that the block was treated as treasury shares in the own books of EPCIBank. The pension fund said that the shares should not have been voted upon during the stockholders meeting.

The GSIS also cited previous judicial rulings which upheld that shares of a parent company's stock, purchased by a wholly owned subsidiary, should be treated as treasury shares at least as far as voting rights were concerned.

Napocor debt seen to ease with VAT law

By Abigail L. Ho

THE ASIAN Development Bank will provide the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. (Psalm) a partial credit guarantee (PCG) for National Power Corp. loans, but only if major fiscal reforms such as the expanded value-added tax (VAT) law is implemented.

The PCG would soften the interest that Psalm would have to pay for Napocor debts and would likewise provide some financing in the form of new loans to service Napocor's existing debts, Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla said.

But this facility, he said, would only be made available if macroeconomic reforms, including the VAT law, would be instituted.

"It's a huge amount they're making available, but it is dependent on our achieving major reforms," he told reporters. "In our case, they're still looking at the VAT after the oral argument at the Supreme Court."

The exact amount of the PCG, he said, would be determined via a mission that the ADB would send here.

The amount that the ADB would be providing to the energy sector came up to around $950 million. Not all of these would be used for the PCG, as part of it would be channeled to other energy projects.

Lotilla said the ADB facility was very important because it would ease the government's payment burden for Napocor's debts. He added that the facility would also pave the way for the issuance of the creditor's consent for the eventual sale of the National Transmission Corp. concession.

Other lenders World Bank and Japan Bank for International Cooperation could then follow suit with the creditor's consent, he said.

The Supreme Court issued a temporary restraining order on the VAT law on July 1.

Gov't fuel conservation effort hits roadblock

THE GOVERNMENT effort to conserve the use of fuel by mandating agencies to blend at least one percent of coco methyl ester (CME) with their diesel requirements, has hit an auditing snag.

Dean Lao Jr., operations manager of coco-biodiesel manufacturer Chemrez Inc., said the Commission on Audit should find a way to enable government firms to procure CME without worrying about auditing hassles.

Under the current arrangement, he said, the line item for transport fuel is only either gasoline or diesel, with no provision for the purchase of blending agents such as CME.

"So they (COA) are actually part of the problem," he said in a recent briefing.

President Macapagal-Arroyo early last year issued Memorandum Circular No. 55, which ordered all government agencies to blend at least one percent of CME with all their diesel requirements.

Data from the Department of Energy showed that the country generated more than P2.5 billion in foreign exchange savings from the mandatory use of CME as a diesel blend for government vehicles.

Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla earlier said that the government registered forex savings of around P127 million from 977,000 liters of displaced diesel.

Also, the accessibility of CME products—these are now being sold as retail shelf items in gasoline stations nationwide—generated another P2.4 billion in savings, coming from 95 million liters of displaced diesel based on a one-percent CME blend.

There are an estimated 29,619 diesel-run government vehicles, including those owned by local government units. These are all covered by the circular.

With all of these vehicles complying with the order, a total of around 65,799 kiloliters of CME will likely be consumed this year, according to the DOE's updated Philippine Energy Plan for 2005-2014.

The plan is part of the government effort to become 60-percent energy self-sufficient by 2010. The plan will also provide additional revenue for the country's 3.6 million coconut farmers.

The escalating prices of crude and petroleum products in the world market has pushed the government to aggressively explore alternative fuel sources.

Abigail L. Ho

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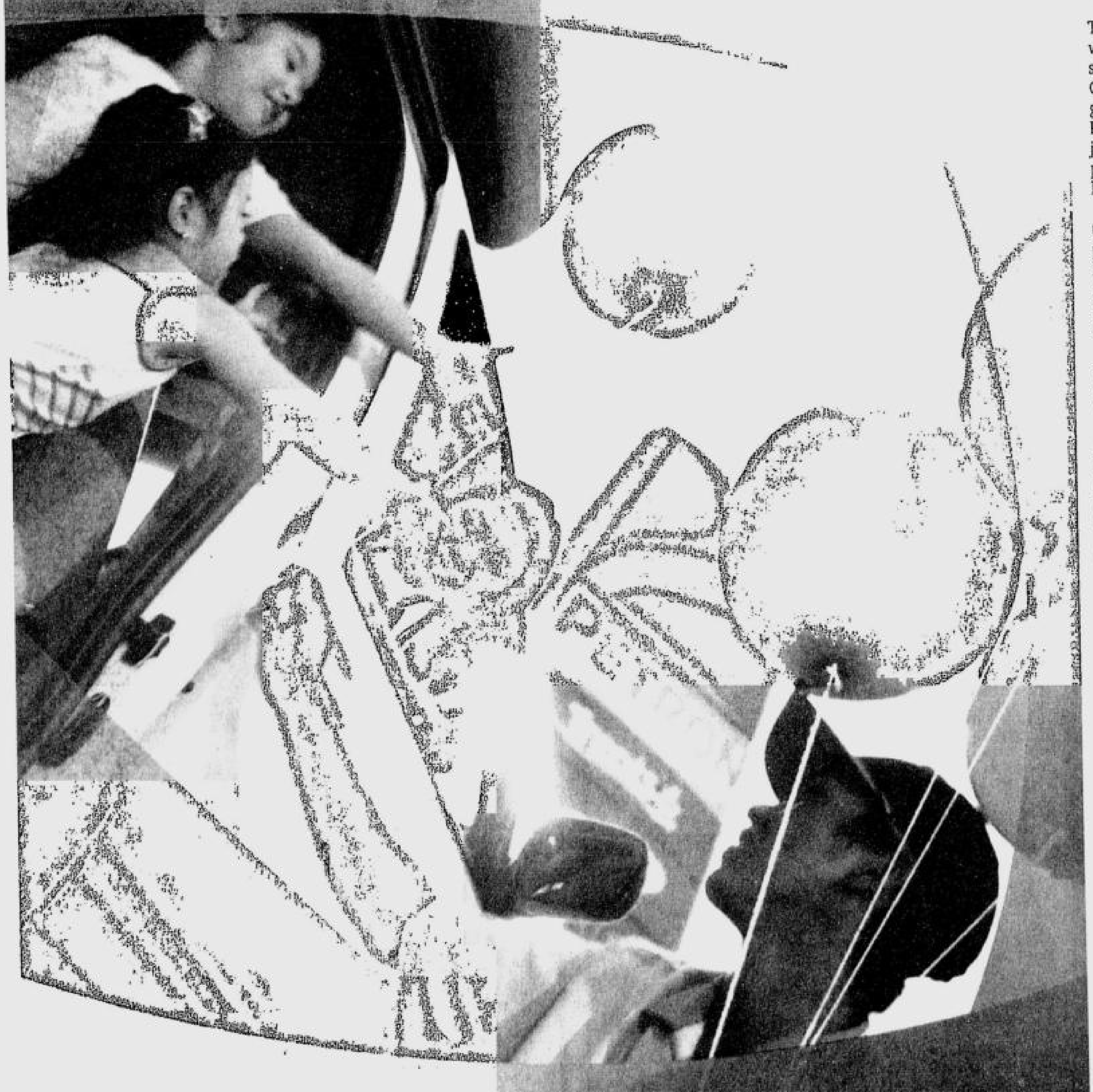

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BUSINESS Monday
Business Features Editor **Margie Quimpo-Espino**

WHAT'S INSIDE

From learning to build to creating feasts /B2-2

MAPPING THE FUTURE
It's time to change /B3-2

Move over magstripes, here come the chips /B2-3

Cooking for kings and queens but saving for the future /B3-3

Banking on "unbankable" entrepreneurs /B3-1

A LEADER'S WAY
John C. Maxwell /B3-4

₱3.2B to improve Filipinos' lives

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

BUSINESS is putting its money where its mouth is. All P3.2 billion of it.

That's how much the 197 member-companies of the Philippine Business for Social Progress have set aside over the next five years to demonstrate their professed commitment to help the government meet the ambitious goals of the United Nations.

Called the Millennium Development Goals, these include: eradicate extreme poverty, get all children through school, combat AIDS and other diseases, promote gender equality, protect the environment and reduce death among children.

The P3.2-billion budget is the biggest outlay that PBSP has committed in its 35-year history, as it recognizes that much needs to be done if the Philippines were to meet the United Nations' and the Philippines' development goals that will lead to a prosperous nation.

Edgar O. Chua, CEO of the Shell group in the Philippines and member of the PBSP board of trustees, said during the recently-concluded conference of the League of Corporate Foundations that of the amount, P1.13 billion would be used for poverty re-

BUSINESS/ B2-2

IF THE Millennium Development Goals are achieved by 2015, poverty will become history.
PDI PHOTO

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Business sets aside ₱3.2B to improve Filipinos' lives

From page B2-1

duction projects, P1.12 billion for the development of small and medium enterprises, P830 million for basic education and P120 million for water and health projects.

"We should contribute to meeting the MDGs not just because it is the right thing to do, but because what business needs to thrive is a healthy and prosperous environment," Chua says.

And all sectors have to work double time to meet the MDG timetable.

Augusto Santos, director general of the National Economic and Development Authority, reported that the Philippines was behind the goal of providing primary education to all Filipinos, with only 90 percent of children in school, against the goal of 100 percent by 2015.

Of the children in school, only 7 of 10 graduate from elementary, against the target of 83.3 percent.

Also listed as having a "medium" probability of attainment were the goals of bringing down the percentage of underweight children aged 0-5, from the current 27.6 percent to 17.25 percent; and the reduction in maternal mortality from 172 to 52.2.

And while efforts to rescue Filipinos from poverty are bearing fruit—with 30.4 percent of Filipinos living below the poverty threshold from 45.3 percent in 1990—the government and the private sector cannot afford to let their guard down.

Rising prices of basic commodities, volatile political situation, and the population growth may push more Filipinos back down the poverty line.

Thus, it is in these areas where the PBSP is concentrating its efforts.

"We are aligning the objectives and programs of PBSP in relation to both the over arching theme and objectives set under the Millennium Development Goals and the Philippine Government's 10-point program. Both are quite frankly strategic, but ambitious in scope, and in many respects, that's why we've got to focus on specific targets," PBSP and Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. chair Manuel V. Pangilinan said in a statement.

Business will play a crucial role in meeting these goals because the government, with its chronic budget problem, simply does not have enough funds to do it on its own.

PANGILINAN

CHUA

Neda figures showed that the share of basic social services in the national budget has been going down over the past five years.

The share of social services, for instance, has gone down to 28 percent this year from 31.2 percent in 2000. Economic services slipped from 24.5 percent in 2000 to 17.5 percent and general public services, such as peace and order, dipped from 18 to 15.5 percent during the period.

The share of debt servicing, on the other hand, went up significantly from 20.7 percent in 2000 to 33.2 percent.

It thus rests on the private sector to fill in much of the gap. Private sector does not mean the member companies of the PBSP alone but businesses in general.

"Business has a very important role to play, compared to other sectors of society, because it is the most organized. So if you could bring the disciplines of business and its resources to help the poor, then that becomes its greatest contribution to the MDGs," Pangilinan said.

Pedro E. Roxas, chair of the CADP group and lead convenor of business and MDGs said the PBSP has broken down the options for business participation into four clusters: health, education, poverty and the environment.

Each cluster is headed by a CEO champion responsible for pushing the agenda and identifying concrete programs where companies can take part in to contribute to the attainment of the MDGs.

"The business community has to do its share because there is so much in terms of the nation's resources that are in the hands of the private sector. This is the biggest challenge that faces us in the business community. We must respond because the problem of poverty has to be addressed frontally, aggressively and it has to be addressed now," said Roberto del Rosario, CEO of Phinma and champion for the business and poverty cluster.

With the combined efforts of the private sector and the government, the Philippines just might make history by making poverty history.

RAMOS

QUE-AZCONA

Retailing masters speak at confab

THE 2005 Entrepreneur of the Year Awardee and National Book Store founder Socorro Ramos will be the Guest of Honor and Keynote Speaker at the 14th National Retailers Conference and Stores Asia Expo (14th NRCE). The event, organized by the Philippine Retailers Association (PRA), is slated on Aug. 18-19 (Conference) and Aug. 17-19, 2005 (Expo) at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel, Mandaluyong City.

With partners GlobeQUEST, PLDT Business Solutions and Tyco Integrated Systems, this year's NRCE which has also invited Philippine Star Publisher Max Soliven as Keynote Speaker, is expected to be a gathering of the best minds in retailing as they share the lessons learned in their quest for "Mastering Retail," the theme for 2005.

Ramos, who has led her company to more than 70 branches in the country, has received numerous awards including the PRA / DTI Outstanding Filipino Retailers Award (2001 & 2004), Woman of the Year (2005) and Entrepreneur of the Year Award (2005) given by the prestigious Ernst & Young, to name a few.

Learn from the masters as they share their success stories. Heading the powerful group of "Next Generation Power Brokers of Philippine Retailing" and "Power Women of Retailing" are Frederick D. Go (Robinsons); Samie Lim (Automatic Center); Edward Gaisano (Metro Gaisano); Manuel Fong Jr. (SM Supermarket); Catherine Y. Tantoco (Shopwise); Miriam O. Katigbak (Ayala Land); Ms. Zenaida R. Tantoco (Stores Specialists); Vivian Que Azcona (Mercury Drug), and Therese C. Santos (Cinderella).

Discussing "Revolutionizing the Philippine Retailing Industry Thru Telecommunications" is Gil O. Genio, Innove Communications and PLDT Business Solutions as luncheon sponsor.

Other distinguished speakers include Esther Capistrano of ACNielsen Philippines discussing "Direct Male: Targeting the Male Consumer"; Robert J.K.T. Kwee, Super SM Hypermart who will speak on "Hypermarts: Hyperbole or Power Formats"; father and son tandem of Roberto S. Claudio and Toby Claudio of Toby's Sports and Hobbies speaking on "Ensuring a Lasting Legacy: The Toby's Story"; Gary Chan Sim Kien, of Tyco as Luncheon sponsor; Oracle speaker who will tackle "Maximizing Margins Thru Optimization"; Margot B. Torres of McDonalds who will discuss, "Using Promotions to Create Competitive Differentiation," and Jonathan R. Madrid, MTV Philippines who will share, "Marketing to the Y Generation."

Side by side with the conference is the only focused and dedicated retail suppliers exhibition billed as "Stores Asia Expo 2005" where a select group of suppliers to the retail industry are expected to showcase the latest "Tools for Global Retailing."

For inquiries, please call 687-4985/ 4180/4181 or email at pra@nwave.net.

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LIKE his excellently cooked dishes, Chef Ariel Manuel went through crucial stages in life that brought out the best in him.

As a self-supporting architecture major who worked as a room boy in Hyatt, he was fascinated by what he saw through a glass window in the hotel kitchen one day: chefs preparing canapes and adding artful touches like vegetables and food carvings.

This appealed to the student of architecture's sensibility so he volunteered to help out and, soon after, was promoted to work in the kitchen.

Extraordinary things happen to extraordinary people and this is true for the extremely talented and humble Ariel. Massive glass doors opened for him in the country's finest hotels: The Peninsula, the Makati Shangri-La where he met future wife Mia who was also a chef at the banquet kitchen, the Heritage Hotel, Mandarin Oriental and Westin Philippine Plaza.

It was his five years in Mandarin that Chef Ariel honed his leadership skills. Then he moved to Westin Philippine Plaza, and in 2000, set off to open Lolo Dad's with Mia.

When they were initially scouting for a venue for a restaurant, they could not find a place in Manila. This was actually a blessing, Ariel narrates, because later on, his father-in-law, "Lolo Dad" Conrado Ayuyao, offered them a small area of the ancestral house in Malate, that also served as his law office.

The original plan for Lolo Dad's Café was to put two small tables and a take-out counter. When the Ayuyao patriarch passed away, Ariel's mother-in-law, Butchie, gave them her blessing to occupy the whole ground floor and convert it into a real restaurant.

It seems Ariel has started a new trend in fine dining: the courses can be served "family style" where dishes are placed in the middle of the table to be shared among the diners. As a grand opener, baked oysters with foie gras on angel hair pasta awakens the palate to more delights and desires to come. The place offers the mother of all appetizer list including salmon, lobster, prawns, Caesar's salad, foie gras, and hot and cold soups served indelicate espresso cups perfect for thoughtful sipping. Its main entrees are worth braving Manila's notorious traffic. And always, make room for dessert if you are dining at Lolo Dad's.

Ariel and Mia have a son named Justin, and while children like him gorge on French fries, the kid fancies "mashed potatoes with foie gras."

Once, in a fine dining restaurant in San Francisco, Justin with the self-assurance of a five-year old, ordered his favorite dish and was disappointed when told it is not served there. Home is on the second floor of Lolo Dad's café and on some days the boy would go down to the restaurant kitchen and fondly requests his "pet chef" Tito to "please prepare mashed potatoes ... and foie gras, but don't tell Tatay" narrates Ariel, laughing.

CHEF Ariel Manuel's food creations are fit for the gods. Lolo Dad's bested nine other big-name hotels and restaurants in the prestigious Black Box culinary competition held in Makati recently. Chef Ariel's winning team will travel to Australia this September for the finals.

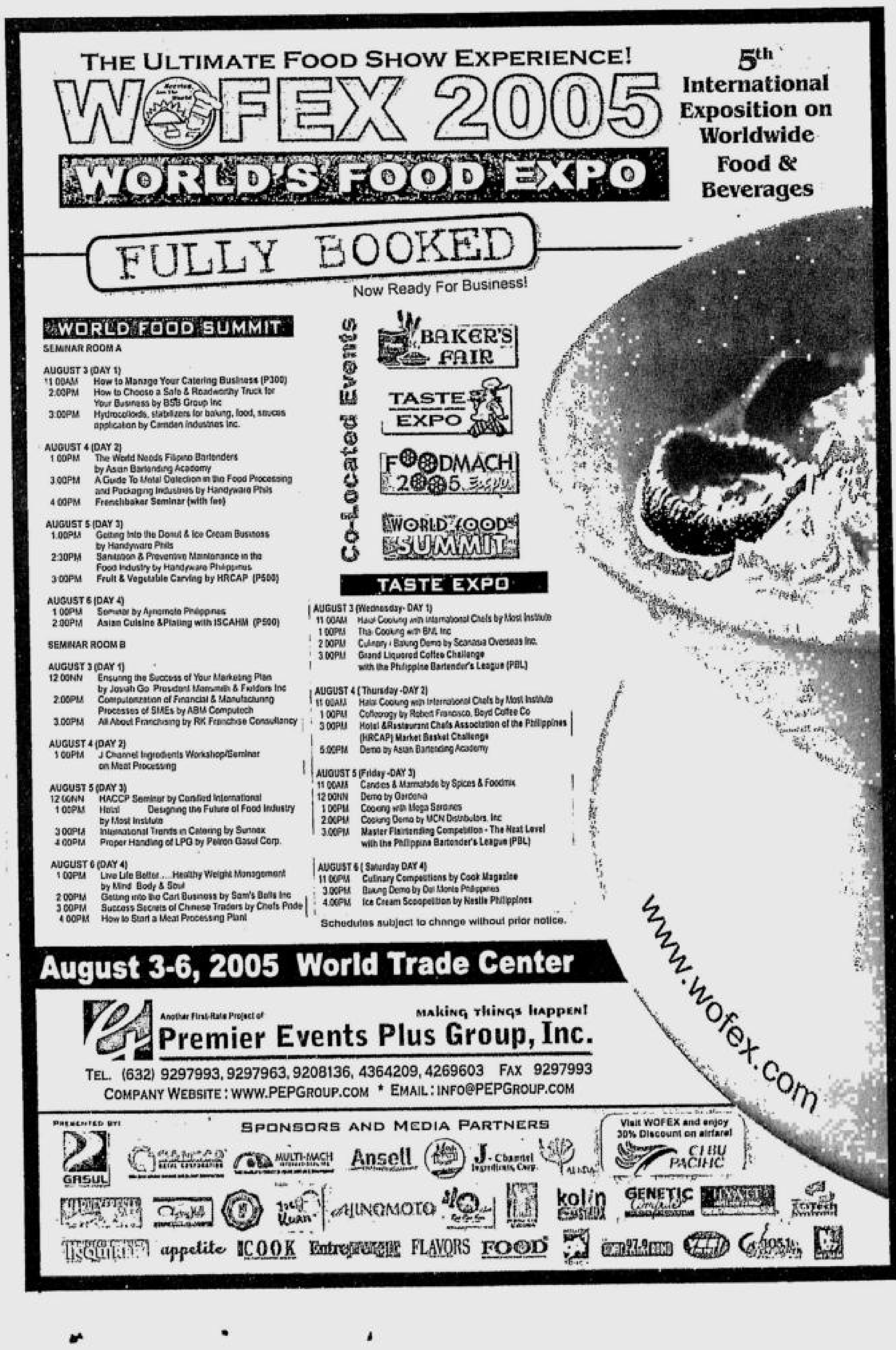
Ariel has been conferred numerous honors and is a two-time Presidential Awardee. Recently, Lolo Dad's team won first place in the Meat and Livestock Australia (MLA) Black Box Competition where chefs from nine of the country's top hotels and restaurants faced off in an exciting match at the Makati Shangri-La Hotel.

With Ariel at the helm, Lolo Dad's will represent the Philippines in the Australia finals this September to compete against teams from 17 other countries.

The chef's tools are an extension of his hands. "One of the most important factors in cooking is having good equipments—especially knives, that's one of the most critical tool," he explains. Right now, Lolo Dad's uses Sunnex knives, chopping boards and pans in the kitchen, "We have good Sunnex knives here. I always have the smallest, paring knife since it is most useful. You can do more and create more when you have the proper equipment."

Ariel Manuel believes that there are two kinds of chefs: "The good chef who understands and creates good food, and the other chef is the exceptional one who goes beyond expectations."

(Lolo Dad's Café is at 899 President Quirino Ave. corner Leon Guinto Street, Malate, Manila.)



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SEMINAR ROOM A
AUGUST 3 (DAY 1)
11:00AM How to Manage Your Catering Business (P300)
2:00PM How to Choose a Safe & Roadworthy Truck for Your Business by BSB Group Inc
3:00PM Hydrocolloids, stabilizers for baking, food, sauces application by Camden Industries Inc.
AUGUST 4 (DAY 2)
1:00PM The World Needs Filipino Bartenders by Asian Bartending Academy
3:00PM A Guide To Metal Detection in the Food Processing and Packaging Industries by Handyware Phils
4:00PM Frenchbaker Seminar (with fee)
AUGUST 5 (DAY 3)
1:00PM Getting Into the Donut & Ice Cream Business by Handyware Phils
2:30PM Sanitation & Preventive Maintenance in the Food Industry by Handyware Philippines
3:00PM Fruit & Vegetable Carving by HRCAP (P500)
AUGUST 6 (DAY 4)
1:00PM Seminar by Ajinomoto Philippines
2:00PM Asian Cuisine &Plating with ISCAHM (P500)
SEMINAR ROOM B
AUGUST 3 (DAY 1)
12:00NN Ensuring the Success of Your Marketing Plan by Josiah Go, President Mansmith & Fielders Inc
2:00PM Computerization of Financial & Manufacturing Processes of SMEs by ABM Computech
3:00PM All About Franchising by RK Franchise Consultancy
AUGUST 4 (DAY 2)
1:00PM J Channel Ingredients Workshop/Seminar on Meat Processing
AUGUST 5 (DAY 3)
12:00NN HACCP Seminar by Certified International
1:00PM Hotel Designing the Future of Food Industry by Most Institute
3:00PM International Trends in Catering by Sunnex
4:00PM Proper Handling of LPG by Petron Gasul Corp.
AUGUST 6 (DAY 4)
1:00PM Live Life Better.... Healthy Weight Management by Mind Body & Soul
2:00PM Getting into the Cart Business by Sam's Balls Inc
3:00PM Success Secrets of Chinese Traders by Chefs Pride
4:00PM How to Start a Meat Processing Plant

Co-Located Events
BAKER'S FAIR
TASTE EXPO
FOODMACH 2005 Expo
WORLD FOOD SUMMIT

TASTE EXPO
AUGUST 3 (Wednesday- DAY 1)
11:00AM Haute Cooking with International Chefs by Most Institute
1:00PM Thai Cooking with BML Inc
2:00PM Culinary - Baking Demo by Scanasia Overseas Inc.
3:00PM Grand Liquored Coffee Challenge with the Philippine Bartender's League (PBL)
AUGUST 4 (Thursday -DAY 2)
11:00AM Halal Cooking with International Chefs by Most Institute
1:00PM Coffeeology by Robert Francisco, Boyd Coffee Co
3:00PM Hotel &Restaurant Chefs Association of the Philippines (HRCAP) Market Basket Challenge
5:00PM Demo by Asian Bartending Academy
AUGUST 5 (Friday -DAY 3)
11:00AM Candies & Marmalade by Spices & Foodmix
12:00NN Demo by Gardenia
1:00PM Cooking with Mega Sardines
2:00PM Cooking Demo by MCN Distributors, Inc
3:00PM Master Flairtending Competition - The Next Level with the Philippine Bartender's League (PBL)
AUGUST 6 (Saturday DAY 4)
11:00PM Culinary Competitions by Cook Magazine
3:00PM Baking Demo by Del Monte Philippines
4:00PM Ice Cream Scoopetition by Nestle Philippines
Schedules subject to change without prior notice.

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Move over magstripes, here come the chips

By Amy R. Remo

IMAGINE a card you can use as a credit, debit, ATM and loyalty card; can store personal data like your favorite coffee beverage; and can possibly serve as your MRT ticket.

Mastercard International proves this can be done with its OneSmart Paypass card during the second MasterCard Asia/Pacific OneSmart and PayPass Conference held recently in Taipei, Taiwan.

It has a contact chip, a copper antenna embedded in the card and a contactless interface, centered around Mastercard M/Chip 4, an EMV-based smart card application.

"Smart card technology promises to be a key driver in the future of payments industry," said MasterCard's Shuan Ghaidan, vice president and regional head, advanced payment systems, Asia/Pacific.

Launched in 2002, Mastercard PayPass allows one to breeze through payments via a tap. This is ideal for quick-payment environments such as convenience stores and fast-food outlets.

OneSmart Mastercard is an umbrella global support program that consolidates all of Mastercard's smart card solutions.

Ghaidan said smart cards—so-called because of its microprocessor chip—have been widely used in telecommunications, transport and other industries as a cost-effective method to process transactions.

The payments industry, including that in the Philippines, still uses magnetic stripe, a technology platform more than 30 years old.

"But this technology is under stress because of the scale and rate of change in the industry," he explained.

A widespread problem with using magstripes is credit card fraud. In Taiwan, for instance, this has been a serious problem with its card fraud rate at $10.8 million in 2002, while losses due to stolen cards rose 36.4 percent in 2003 from 2002.

With its heightened security, smart cards lessen risk of fraud since the chip holds encrypted information.

Stored information can range from passport details, loyalty and frequent flyer points, to even clothing sizes and dietary preferences.

"Consumers expect more utility from their cards. A consumer study commissioned by MasterCard found that consumers welcome the concept of multi-application payment cards," said Ghaidan.

As of June 2005, there are more than 38 million MasterCard chip-enabled cards in Asia/Pacific. Over 95 percent of these are EMV-compliant.

Chip migration

The migration towards chip-based cards from the magstripe technology is now considered as the payment industry's new frontier.

All these applications give opportunities to make smart cards highly customized with one's lifestyle.

Chip migration is made easier through EMV—a set of standards agreed to by EuroPay, MasterCard and Visa consortium.

EMV compliance ensures interoperability of chip cards and terminals, meaning that a merchant, for instance, does not need to have different infrastructures for EuroPay, MasterCard and Visa.

More importantly, "EMV compliance becomes a prerequisite in developing a global smart card network."

On the part of the banks, chip migration enables them to strengthen customer relations and reduce operating costs.

"Although chip migration here was met with mixed results, its growth rate is very high with more than 100-percent growth in 2001, 2002 and 2003," said Ghaidan.

MasterCard has initiated chip programs in Indonesia and Philippines while Taiwan and Malaysia have been major growth markets.

One major motivator for countries to move faster toward chip migration is concern over fraud and security.

"That's why in Taiwan and Malaysia, the government mandated a deadline for chip migration. Local regulations favoring EMV gave it further push," explained Ghaidan.

Taiwan and Malaysia expect full EMV compliance chip migration by 2006 while Japan and Korea has set a deadline of 2008.

Locally, the Bank of the Philippines Islands has conducted a pilot launch of MasterCard Paypass in December last year—the first to do so in Southeast Asia.

According to BPI's Cecile Dela Paz, VP for card banking division, they have around 250 pilot PayPass cardholders and 20 pilot merchants including selected outlets of Seattle's Best, Figaro, Burger King and Wendy's.

SHUAN GHAIDAN

Last June, it launched its chip card called BPI Express Credit Gold MasterCard with the Paysafe System. The microchip ensures transactions are more secure with its encryption capability.

"There is no mandate for us to migrate to chip technology but there are incentives given to those will do so—not only to our benefit but also to those of our customers—which is too hard to ignore" said Dela Paz.

JOHNNIE WALKER® CELERATES THE 200TH BIRTHDAY OF FOUNDER JOHN WALKER

July 25, 2005 marks the 200th birthday of John Walker, the original Master Blender and founder of Johnnie Walker®, the world's best selling brand of Scotch Whisky.

John Walker (1805-1857) was the man who started it all, he was the son of a farmer, but when his father died he seized the opportunity to leave the farm and open a grocery business in the nearby town of Kilmarnock. He was only 15, but this was the first step to what would later become an international business empire.

At the time single malts were not appreciated the way there are now - they were too oily and heavy for many people's tastes - so John Walker applied the tea blending principles he had picked up to whisky, he set out to create a 'blend that cannot be beat' and the business prospered and John's reputation as an expert blender spread throughout the West of Scotland.

Without the introduction of these smoother and more balanced blends, whisky might never have left the remote highlands and islands of Scotland - and what a tragedy that would have been!

Today IMPACT magazine, one of the prestigious international beverage publications, ranks Johnnie Walker as the world's most valuable spirits brand. In 2004 alone, more than 120 million bottles of Johnnie Walker worldwide were sold around the world, approximately 60 glasses enjoyed by consumers each second. In fact, Johnnie Walker sells twice the volume of the number two brand.

Around the world, the symbol of Johnnie Walker® is its iconic logo. "The Striding Man symbolizes the Walker family motto that through perseverance and commitment, virtually any obstacle can be overcome," says Ben Anderson, Global Brand Director of Diageo. "Initially designed as a cartoon rendering of John Walker, the Striding Man has endured as one of the great global icons of the modern era and there's no stronger figure around which to celebrate such a significant milestone."

About Johnnie Walker®:

The Johnnie Walker® portfolio features five award-winning whiskies - Red Label®, Black Label®, Green LabelTM, Gold Label® and Blue Label® - imported and distributed in the Philippines by Diageo Philippines Inc. More than 4 bottles of Johnnie Walker are consumed every second, and more than 120 million bottles are sold every year in more than 200 countries. The product line covers a broad range of occasions for the whisky drinker from every day to special moments. The five premium brands represent a range of prices and tastes that share a remarkable 180-year history and a commitment to quality. Additional information about Johnnie Walker may be found at www.johnniewalker.com

About Diageo:

Diageo is the world's leading premium drinks business with an outstanding collection of beverage alcohol brands across spirits, wines, and beer categories. These brands include Johnnie Walker, Guinness, Smirnoff, J&B, Baileys, Cuervo, Tanqueray, Captain Morgan, and Crown Royal, as well as Beaulieu Vineyard and Sterling Vineyards wines.

Diageo is a global company, trading in more than 200 markets around the world. The company is listed on both the New York Stock Exchange (DEO) and the London Stock Exchange (DGE). For more information about Diageo, its people, brands, and performance, visit us at http://www.diageo.com. Celebrating life, every day, everywhere, responsibly.

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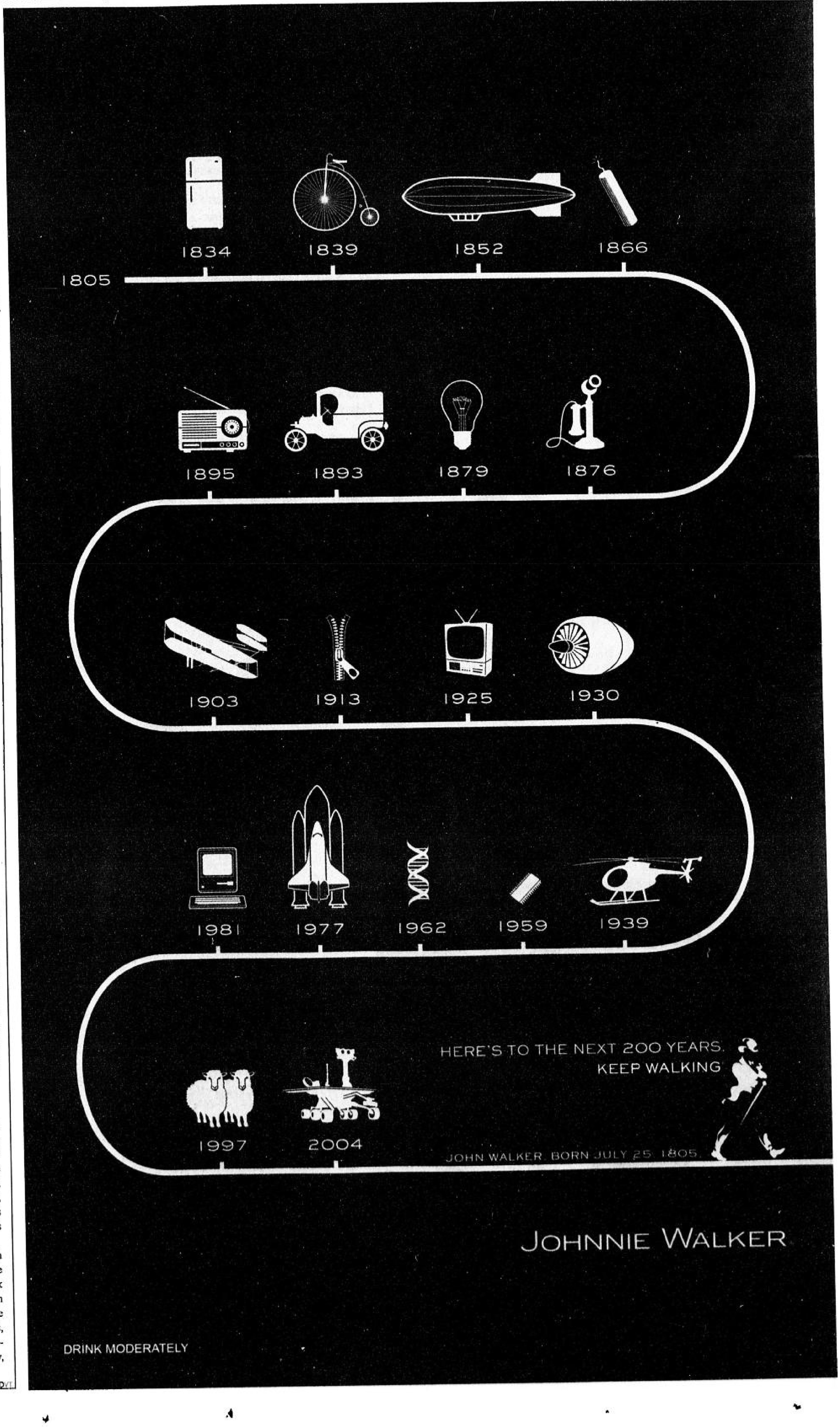


Reaching the Millenium

THE PRESIDENT'S BRIDGE PROGRAM

JCKINGHAM PALACE

MESSAGE FROM HRH THE DUKE OF YORK

Strengthening Ties Between the Philippines and the UK

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the team of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's President's Bridge Programme for achieving the unparalleled accomplishment of constructing more than a thousand bridges in the Philippines over the last eight years.

Mabey and Johnson Ltd., who have supplied the Compact Bridges and provided support to the programme, represents a long-standing tradition of British engineering. Their bridges symbolise a permanent legacy of the cooperation between our two countries -- a legacy that will continue to provide rural infrastructure links necessary for continuous economic and social development throughout the country.

I congratulate all those who have made this huge achievement and I trust that the continued success of the President's Bridge Programme will further strengthen the bilateral co-operation and friendship between the Philippines and Great Britain.

London

Prince Andrew
HRH The Duke of York

MESSAGE FROM HM AMBASSADOR

Building Links Between Britain and the Philippines

In the short time that I have been in the Philippines, I have had an opportunity to see the importance of bridge building in this beautiful archipelago. I was fortunate to be invited recently to join President Macapagal-Arroyo when she travelled in Iloilo Province. We travelled over a number of bridges and discussed briefly the success of the President's Bridge Programme.

I am delighted that Mabey & Johnson have made such an important contribution to the building of bridges in the Philippines. I have met the company's team both in Britain and the Philippines, and had the opportunity to congratulate them on their work here.

I look forward to seeing the completion of more bridges by Mabey & Johnson during my work in the Philippines. British companies are among the largest investors in the Philippines, and I hope that many more will join Mabey & Johnson and others in helping to develop the country's many resources.

Manila

Peter Beckingham

Peter Beckingham
HM Ambassador

The momentous construction of the 1000th pre-fabricated steel bridge under the President's Bridge Programme (PBP) symbolizes the enhanced and strengthened bilateral development cooperation between Her Majesty's United Kingdom Government and the Republic of the Philippines.

This achievement echoes the successful implementation of a high impact infrastructure programme under a bilaterally approved project framework and highly concessional financing arrangements backed-up by the Export Credit Guarantee Department of Her Majesty's Government under the 1995 United Kingdom Aid and Trade Provisions and the 1996 United Kingdom-Philippine Aid Consultations.

As a parallel intervention, the Programme fast-tracks the provision of critical infrastructure development support aimed to address the country's ballooning bridge requirement of about 15,000 local and national bridges as reflected in the Medium-Term Philippine Development Plan.

The Programme links the remotest and poorest communities with the nation's highly urbanized centers creating an opportunity of spreading the fruits of economic progress to the greatest number of populace. Since its inception, it's bridge technology has gained acceptance as the most cost effective mode of installing permanent modular steel bridges quickly, efficiently and with no cost overruns.

Started in 1994 by President Fidel V. Ramos, an engineer and a development oriented President, the Programme continued under President Joseph Estrada and progressed under President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's stewardship, evidenced by higher performance rating and the completion of 1,000 steel bridges.

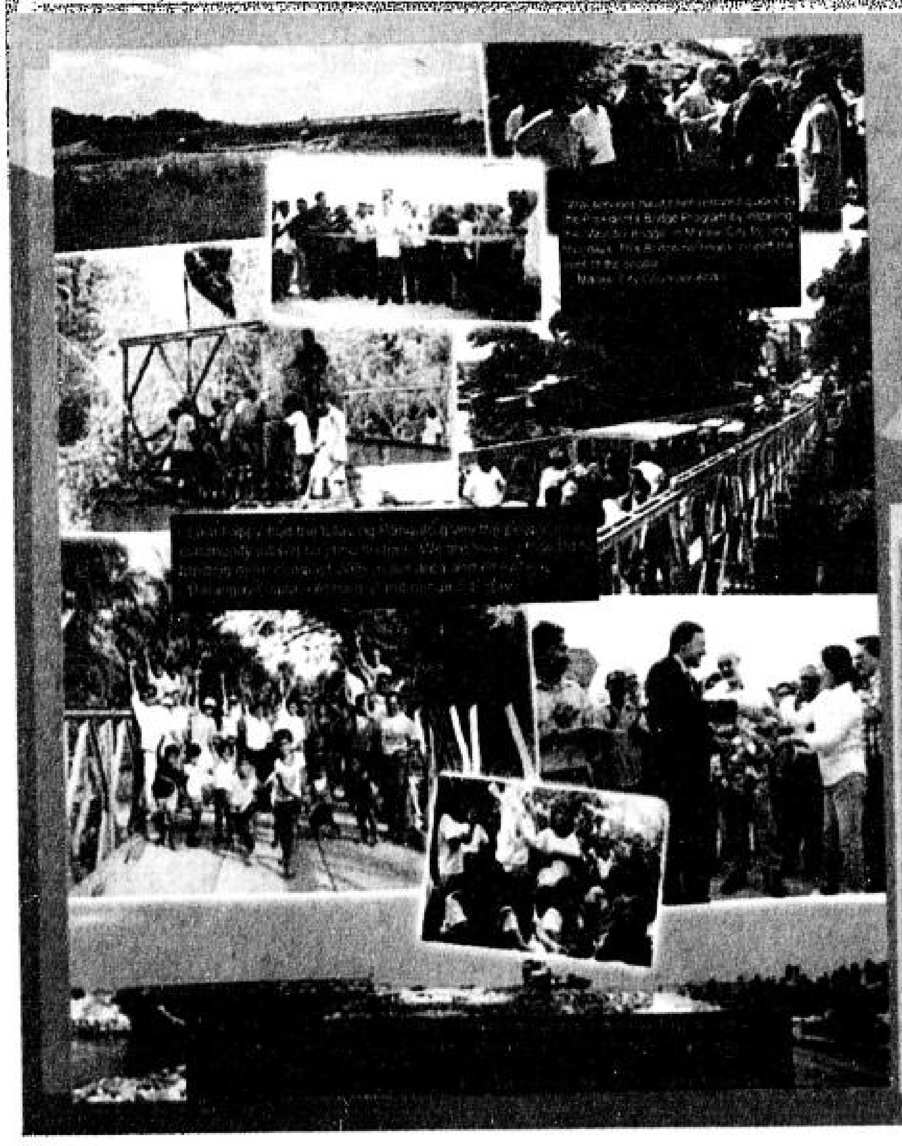
The Programme is now under the able chairmanship of the Department of Public Works and Highways Secretary Hermogenes Ebdane, Jr., an engineer by training and soldier by discipline.

Due to its modular and quick building nature, the Programme generated bridging materials savings that were used for the San Fernando flyover (installed in 14 days) and Malolos flyover (installed in 60 days). Moreover, as a result of bridging materials savings, emergency bridges were likewise stockpiled in strategic areas of the country as directed by Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to immediately respond to natural disasters. This policy directive bore fruit during the 2004 December typhoons where vital bridges destroyed or weakened were immediately rehabilitated and constructed in the provinces of Quezon, Quirino, Nueva Viscaya and Nueva Ecija under the President's Bridge Program.

The Programme has distinguished itself as creator of "wonder bridges" given the completion of bridges from one week to three months. Averaging 5 bridges per month in its first four years of implementation, the Programme doubled its output within the next three years to 10 per month and tripled to 30 per month by 2004. This is a global record breaking achievement in bridge building history.

Consistent with the UK-Philippines bilateral protocol arrangements for development cooperation, Mabey and Johnson, Ltd. is the certified British sole supplier of steel bridging materials for the President's Bridge Programme. It is the only British company which manufactures pre-fabricated panel style steel bridges.It uses the latest state of the art bridge technology and fully robotized production in the manufacturing of its patented steel bridges. The company is 150 years old and a recipient of six Queen's Award for Export Achievement in recognition of its continuing success in the provition of bridging materials to over 115 countries worldwide.

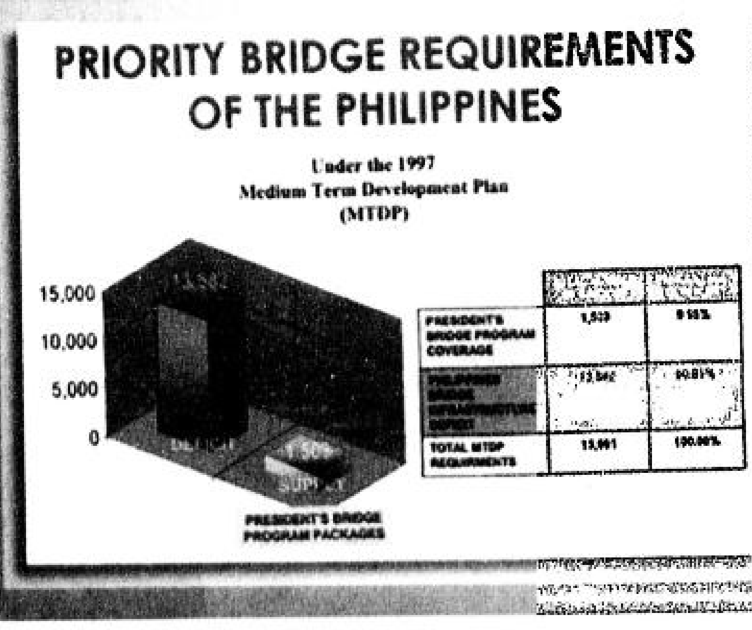
"Reaching the Millennium", a book especially produced in the United Kingdom to mark the completion of 1,000 bridges under the President's Programme was recently presented to His Royal Highness, Prince Andrew, the Duke of York by Mr. David Mabey, Chairman of the Mabey Group of Companies of the United Kingdom. The book was officially transmitted by Her Majesty's Ambassador to the Philippines, Peter Beckingham, to Her Excellency, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.



PRESIDENT'S BRIDGE PROGRAM
TULAY NG PANGULO

THE QUEEN'S AWARD

MABEY



PRIORITY BRIDGE REQUIREMENTS OF THE PHILIPPINES

Under the 1997
Medium Term Development Plan
(MTDP)

	[illegible]	[illegible]
PRESIDENT'S BRIDGE PROGRAM COVERAGE	[illegible]	[illegible]
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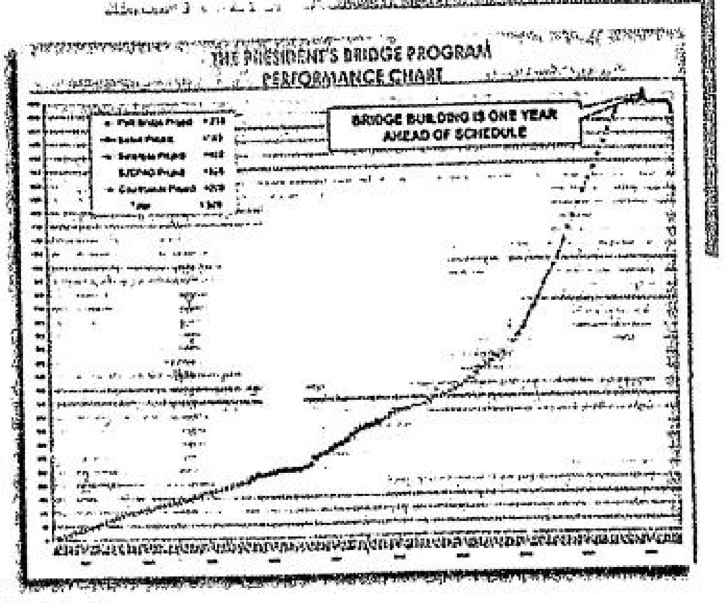
TOTAL MTDP REQUIREMENTS	15,001	100.00%



THE PRESIDENT'S BRIDGE PROGRAM
PERFORMANCE CHART

BUSINESS Monday

E-mail: pr_business@inquirer.com.ph

Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

Banking on 'unbankable' entrepreneurs

By Myrna Rodriguez-Co
Contributor, UP Institute for Small-Scale Industries

LIANGA, Surigao del Sur—What is now the biggest micro finance institution in Mindanao was born in this quiet little town whose main claim to prominence used to be pristine Lianga Bay, big-scale logging operations, and NPA-infested forests.

Enterprise Bank, which began as the New Rural Bank of Lianga, when it was set up in 1976, was not immediately successful, Ignacito "Chito" Alvizo, founder, former president and now board chair, remembers. In fact, it was on the brink of collapse by 1994 due in part to participation in ill-fated government-sponsored agricultural lending programs like Masagana 99 and in part, in Chito's own words "...to poor lending policies and mismanagement."

MARK Pintacasi, account officer, monitors how micro entrepreneur Jose Escanis use loan proceeds.

Rehabilitating a bank

How a bankrupt rural bank got back on its feet to become a multi-awarded micro credit institution makes for a study in persistence, risk-taking and innovation.

Chito used to work as a small business extension officer at the UP Institute for Small-Scale Industries, which, in 1982 seconded him as a consultant to Liberia to implement a small enterprise credit program in Monrovia. This was the beginning of his consultancy career that spanned 12 years: seven years in Africa and five years in the Middle East.

In 1994, back home after an engagement in Yemen, Chito was ready to retire. He had to rethink his plans, however, when he found the community rural bank he founded in dire straits.

Past due ratio of the New Rural Bank of Lianga was 90 percent. The P6 million assets it had were made up mainly of past due accounts. The handful of employees—about 11—was suffering from low morale.

Banishing thoughts of early retirement, Chito applied for the bank's rehabilitation with the Bangko Sentral. Putting his consultancy experience to his own financial project, he diagnosed and studied the bank's operations and business environment.

Poverty incidence in Surigao del Sur was high, at 70 percent. Lianga was an agricultural community of 5,000 residents, with no thriving small enterprise or agribusiness tradition to boast about.

It didn't take long for Chito and his management team to develop a new vision for the bank that was more attuned to the economic realities in the area. It required them to set aside traditional banking thrusts in favor of a new one that would serve the enterprising poor who wanted to go into very small ventures.

"We became a 'high-breed' bank," Ronald Alvizo, Chito's nephew and now president of the bank, says. "A rural bank that has micro credit as its centerpiece product."

Very few rural banks are engaged in micro financing, for micro enterprises were regarded as unviable, unstable, undynamic, and therefore high credit risks, Ronald, a lawyer, adds.

Enterprise Bank, now with 10 branches in Surigao del Sur, Agusan del Sur, Agusan del Norte and Davao del Norte, has since proven that keeping faith with the poor can pay off ... and not only in peso terms.

Early struggles

It cannot be said however, that Enterprise Bank was an overnight success as a micro finance institution.

The bank began micro finance operations with but P3 million out of Chito's own earnings as a consultant. Between 1994 to 1996, the rehabilitated, redirected rural bank inched to growth. Chito and Ronald figured that the only way to operate was to lend on short-term basis and achieve a high collection rate. They were so poor that they relied only on bank earnings for capital which was very limited then, Chito recalls.

"At that time, nobody was interested in putting their money in the bank," Ronald pipes in.

The bank reached a turning point when it began a group lending program now known as Kalisod Mo, Tabangan Ko (Your hardship, I will give a hand to) or KMTK with an initial funding of P1 million from Peoples Credit and Finance Corp. (PCFC).

Like most other micro finance institutions, the bank adopted the famous Grameen Bank approach (GBA) from Bangladesh which relied mainly on peer pressure to enforce credit discipline among an organized group of borrowers usually known as a *celda*. Under GBA, celda members can get loans individually, but are collectively responsible for every member's loan repayment. The principal targets are women, who are said to generally fare better in repaying loans than men.

In the Philippines, the Grameen concept works because *hiya* and *amor propio* are deeply ingrained in the Filipino's value system.

It took time for Enterprise Bank to refine and modify the application of the celda concept. It was an achievement for which Chito gives credit to the Center for Agriculture and Rural Development (CARD) Inc., a micro finance practitioner based in Laguna, where he trained in group lending technology.

Group lending approach

The approach begins with selecting the right barangays in which to market the program. They have to be barangays with enough enterprising women willing to enroll and endowed with resources that will grow micro enterprises in terms of supply, skills and markets. Once 15-20 enterprising women are identified, their qualifications are assessed. If they are residents of the place, are married, belong to low-income families and are perceived to be enterprising, they qualify to undergo a seven-day training on credit procedures and credit values and discipline. To determine whether they have internalized the training, they take a test. Loans are disbursed immediately after.

From thereon, the women attend weekly center (a center is made up of eight groups or celdas) meetings where they discuss and decide matters relating to business management, loan repayment, repeat loans, leadership and related matters. The bank's account officer attends the meetings primarily to collect weekly payments, approve repeat loans, and support social activities of the center. Those who cannot pay their loans are assisted by the rest of the members.

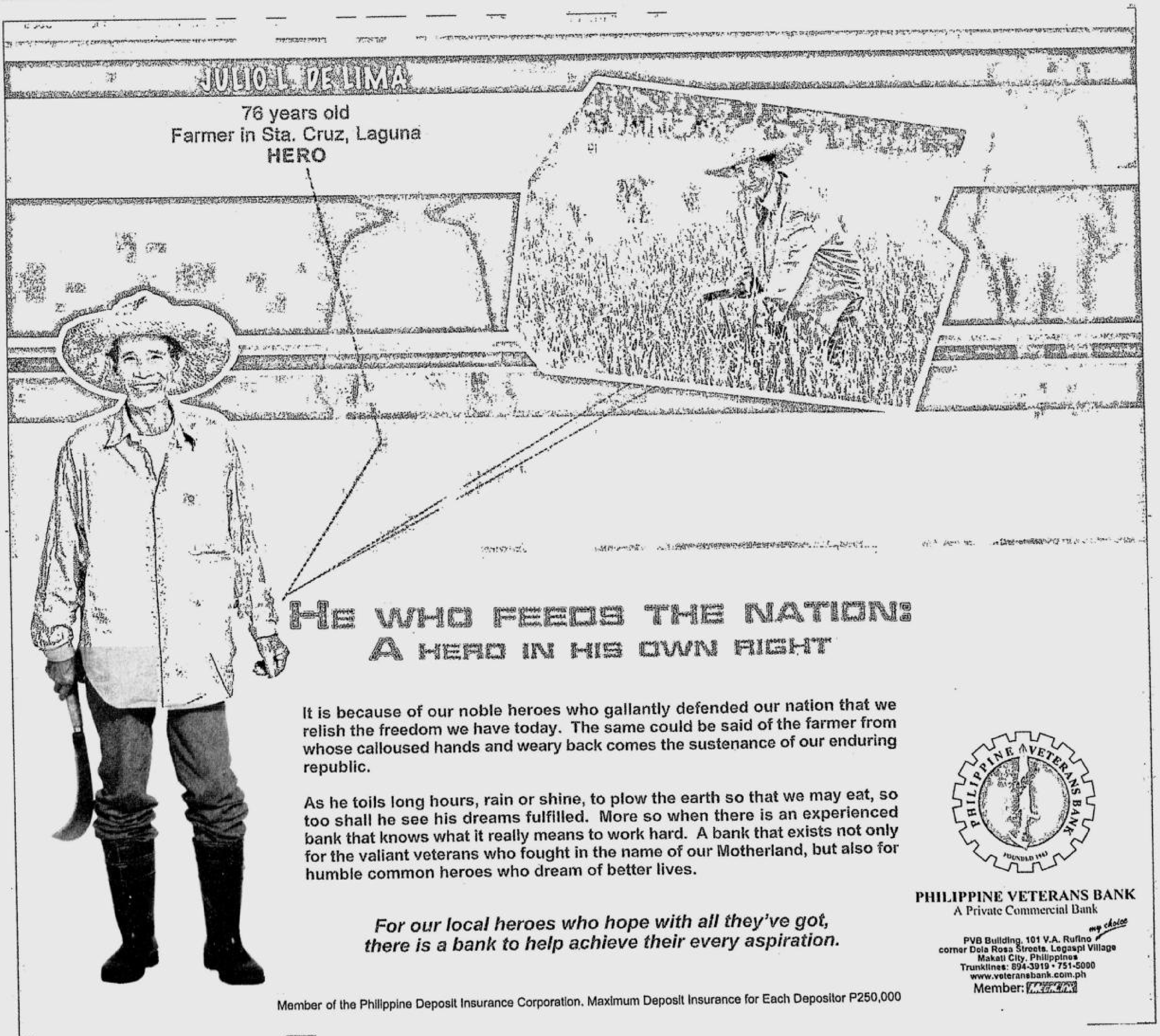
Chito calls center meetings the "heart of the group lending process." This is where women manifest their ability to sustain their micro businesses and their participation in the group lending scheme.

Payoff

Lending to poor but enterprising women makes sense, Enterprise Bank has since learned.

Its group lending program is now serving 22,000 clients in 173 barangays and 55 municipalities in four provinces with a loan portfolio that grew from P8 million in 1998 to P80 million in 2004. Its collection rate which was 100 percent when it began has slightly slipped to 99 percent in 2004. It is natural for collection rates to decline, Chito explains, as the initial

BANKING/B2-2



HE WHO FEEDS THE NATION:
A HERO IN HIS OWN RIGHT

It is because of our noble heroes who gallantly defended our nation that we relish the freedom we have today. The same could be said of the farmer from whose calloused hands and weary back comes the sustenance of our enduring republic.

As he toils long hours, rain or shine, to plow the earth so that we may eat, so too shall he see his dreams fulfilled. More so when there is an experienced bank that knows what it really means to work hard. A bank that exists not only for the valiant veterans who fought in the name of our Motherland, but also for humble common heroes who dream of better lives.

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Awards: August 2004 By Xiao Ming Wu - 21/0/2004

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- Easy, no-tools setup on any desktop or notebook computer with USB support
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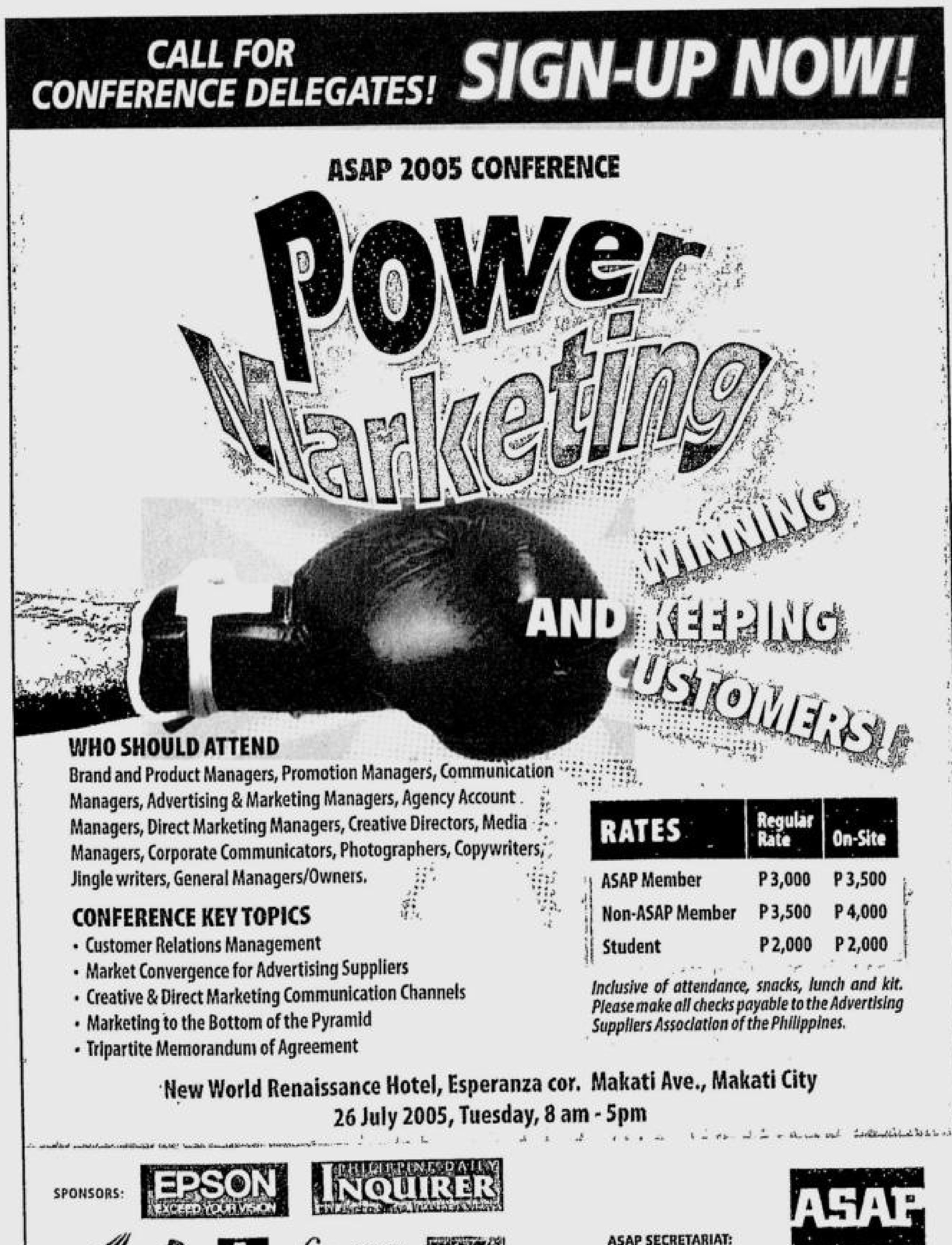

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It's time to change

MAPPING THE FUTURE

Cora PB Claudio

RESPECTED citizens of the country, including church leaders, admit the Philippines has become a very corrupt society. Cheating, many say, has become so common, starting at home between husband and wife, that concern now is more how grave the offense is rather than whether it happens or not.

It is, indeed, the time to change for the better. But, in doing so, let us focus first on ourselves, then on our home, our companies and our local communities. Our campaign slogan in promoting environmental caring—SIMBY or Start In My Back Yard—applies here also. One cannot stand on good moral ground to demand a national leader to resign, supposedly for cheating, weak decision making, etc., if one is also guilty of such offenses. The change must start from within.

Proposals on needed changes abound. To such proposals, may I add the need to change our lifestyle—perhaps, the root of many evils we see now. It is time to change our unsustainable, materialistic, wasteful lifestyle to a sustainable one.

Sustainable lifestyle covers sustainable production and consumption; social, ecological and economic resilience and vulnerability; governance and institutions needed to foster sustainability; and societal values and norms for promoting sustainability.

Sustainable production

With limited resources for meeting increasing needs, making our food and industrial production sustainable becomes an urgent challenge.

One way of doing so is to "convert agricultural wastes into rich fertilizers to increase productivity that, at the same time, reduces greenhouse gas emissions."

Recently, a small group from the environment committee of the Management Association of the Philippines (MAP) and our new partner, the Gawad Kalinga Community Development Foundation (GKCDF) visited the integrated farm of MAP member Joe Simeon in Tarlac which applies bio-organic technology developed by a group of development-oriented scientists-businessmen led by Bong Garrucho, formerly of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).

Joe converts the waste from his piggery into high-grade fertilizer and rich nutrient feed for his prawn pond. It is an integrated farm system, which we hope to replicate as a livelihood source in GK communities.

Sustainable consumption

Sustainable consumption demands being aware of the impact of purchases and lifestyles on the environment and other people; taking actions that are not wasteful. It requires us to ask before buying: Do I really need to buy this? What raw materials were used in this product? How long will it last? How will I dispose of it after my use?

Sustainable consumption starts from equitable sharing of resources. The United Nations Environment Program reports that industrialized countries, with only about 15 percent of the global population, account for more than 70 percent of consumption expenditures.

Resilience and vulnerability

The economic health of the Philippines is important to the national stability and development. But sustainable development is like a stool with three legs and economic development is but one of them. The social and ecological pillars are as important as the economic one. Unfortunately, they are in worse shape than the economic pillar.

The social pillar includes social equity and other political and social concerns, as well as values, attitudes and behaviors of the individuals and organizations that make up our society. It is the weakness of the social pillar, more than that of the economic pillar, which makes the country unstable. Past economic progress has not made much difference in the life of many of our people due to social inequity.

The ecological pillar is also weak. Poor treatment has led to risks to the environment and public health. Note the increasing incidence of cancer.

Environmental pollution does not differentiate the poor from the rich. It affects all, hence, defense of the environment should be a national health and security concern.

Governance and institutions

Decision-making is an important function in governance and in the operation of our institutions. My doctoral thesis adviser, Prof. M. Elisabeth Pate-Cornell, said that in collective decision-making, searching for a universally acceptable result is addressing the wrong question. Setting a norm on the process, she argued, is more conducive to agreements. She identified the characteristics of the decision-making process, for which certain norms and procedures need to be agreed on. These include: sound legal basis, an information and communication system, a public review process, a clear but flexible set of decision criteria reflecting public preferences, an appropriate conflict resolution mechanism, and a feedback mechanism. The "sound legal basis" starts with our Constitution and the manner by which we apply it. We now need to subject it, as well as the entire legal system, to reforms that are acceptable to the public.

Societal values and norms

We just launched a partnership program to help establish one or more ecologically sound villages with priority for those populated fully or partially by indigenous people who belong to the poorest of the poor in our country and in the areas affected by natural disasters. This is a joint project of the MAP, through the MAP environment committee and the MAP national issues committee, and the TOWNS (The Outstanding Women in the Nation's Service) Foundation and our companies, relatives and friends, with the GKCDF.

An eco-village applies environmentally sound and sustainable technologies (e.g., energy-efficient housing design) and practices (e.g., recycling, sustainable lifestyle). It integrates human activities harmlessly into the natural environment, supports healthy human development, and can be continued into an indefinite future. It uses energy, water, food, soil, and materials in balance with the "carrying" capacity of the natural processes of the area. It supports a vision for a sustainable future which involves clean air, water, and land and living practices that respect nature. The community's members meet their economic and social needs through interdependence and with an economy that provides good quality of life to all community members, not only to a few. The community achieves sustainability through values formation and community empowerment, improved health and sanitation, ecologically sound livelihood projects, and education.

It is the type of community that we hope to start building soon with the help of our members and of other caring souls out there who would like to join us. By focusing first on the indigenous people, we also hope to promote improved understanding of their culture, skills, needs, etc., as well recognize their current and potential contributions to the sustainable development of our country.

The indigenous people seem to intuitively know what sustainable development means as they live within the resources available to them. Perhaps, by helping them, we can also get inspiration, if not ideas, on how to get out of the political situation that we are in and move forward to a sustainable path.

(The author co-chairs MAP's environment committee and co-directs the MAP-TOWNS-GK partnership project. Feedback mapsec@globenet.com.ph.)

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Banking on 'unbankable' . . .

From page B2-1

enthusiasm and sense of commitment tend to waver over time.

Quite a few clients graduate from the group lending scheme to the commercial loan programs where they can borrow bigger loan amounts on longer term, says Ronald. The implication here is that these "graduates" have grown from micro to small-scale.

Profitability was achieved in 2000 and has since grown by 15 percent a year.

Chito and Ronald plan to replicate the KMTK to yet unserved areas in Mindanao once micro finance branch licenses have been granted by the Bangko Sentral.

The bank has received awards from Rural Bankers Association and Micro Enterprise Access to Banking Services and from the Peoples Credit and Finance Corp. for outstanding performance in micro credit. But more than these trophies, Chito and Ronald take pride that Enterprise Bank has, indeed been, *tabang* (help) to poor people's *kalisod* (hardship).

(The UP ISSI and the Small Enterprises Research and Development Foundation will soon publish a casebook on micro enterprises that have grown into small, dynamic enterprises. Micro finance institutions interested to have their successful clients featured in the book may call the author at Tel. 928-7076 to 79 or email myrna.co@up.edu.ph.)

Cooking for kings and queens, but saving for the future

By Marlet D. Salazar

CHEF Abraham "Abe" Arellano simply wanted to give his provincemates a taste of fine cuisine from all over the world. This led to the opening of a café and later a restaurant in Tuguegarao.

His job allowed him to travel in different parts of the world and cook for kings, queens, world leaders, and even for the US allied forces during the Gulf War. Abe worked as a chef in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, in the Royal Carribean Cruise Liner, and hotels in Miami, Florida.

Abe was born and raised in Sta. Teresita, a town in Cagayan, where life, as he describes, is simple.

In the late 70s, Abe traveled to Manila to study Civil Engineering at the Manuel L. Quezon University. The scarcity of resources prompted him work as a food checker in the former site of Jai Alai in the SkyRoom along Taft Avenue, Manila. He worked at night and studied during the day.

Earning lured him to go full-time when he transferred to the Aristocrat Restaurant two years later. "It was there and at the Yum Yum Tree where I learned a lot about cooking," he says.

He enjoyed it so much he expanded his knowledge through self-study. Abe moved to Rustan's Supermarket coffee shop (Yum Yum Tree) and later at the Matabungkay Beach Club where he was made an executive chef.

During the time when most Filipinos tried their luck in other countries, Abe found himself applying for a job overseas. He initially worked for a sheik in KSA. He shares that his employers, especially the "Madam," likes European food especially Italian dish.

After his contract, he came back to Manila and applied for a cruise ship where he spent most of his years also as a chef. His first four years allowed him to travel to California, Los Angeles, Mexico, and other places in the United States.

Abe spent 20 of his 50 years working abroad and learning different food and cultures. When he felt he was ready to retire, he opted to settle in his home province.

Abe knew the importance of saving for the future. He was able to acquire pieces of property in Cagayan which his brothers manage. His two sisters are now working abroad.

"I am disciplined and always think of the future," he said, "I never had fears of not having a fallback in the coming years."

Using his savings, he put up the Valley Home Café and Pizza Bar in Aparri, Cagayan. Feeling he could serve a broader market, Abe eventually moved to Tuguegarao after two years. He named the restaurant Fusion now located in Ryan Mall, Tuguegarao City.

Abe explains that the name signifies his desire to redefine the taste of various dishes by mixing and matching ingredients from different cuisine.

Abe used to stay in the kitchen with his mother when he was a child. "But during those times we didn't have enough ingredients," he said.

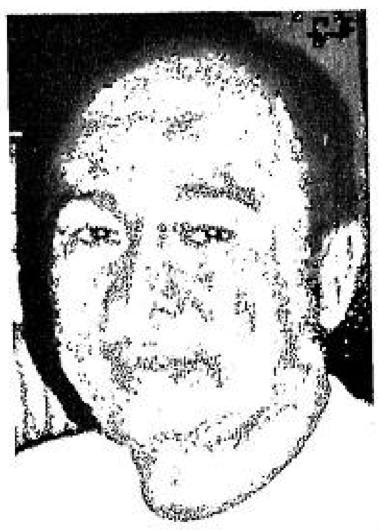
Abe personally supervises the kitchen with some help from his employees. He does the cooking himself although he also shares the knowledge to some of them. He also personally travels to Manila, Baguio, and other places to look for ingredients. Some are sourced from abroad.

Running a business is difficult in the beginning, according to Abe, but his perseverance pays off well especially when he gets good feedback from customers.

With the warm acceptance of his restaurant, Abe is planning to put up branches not only in Cagayan but also in Manila.

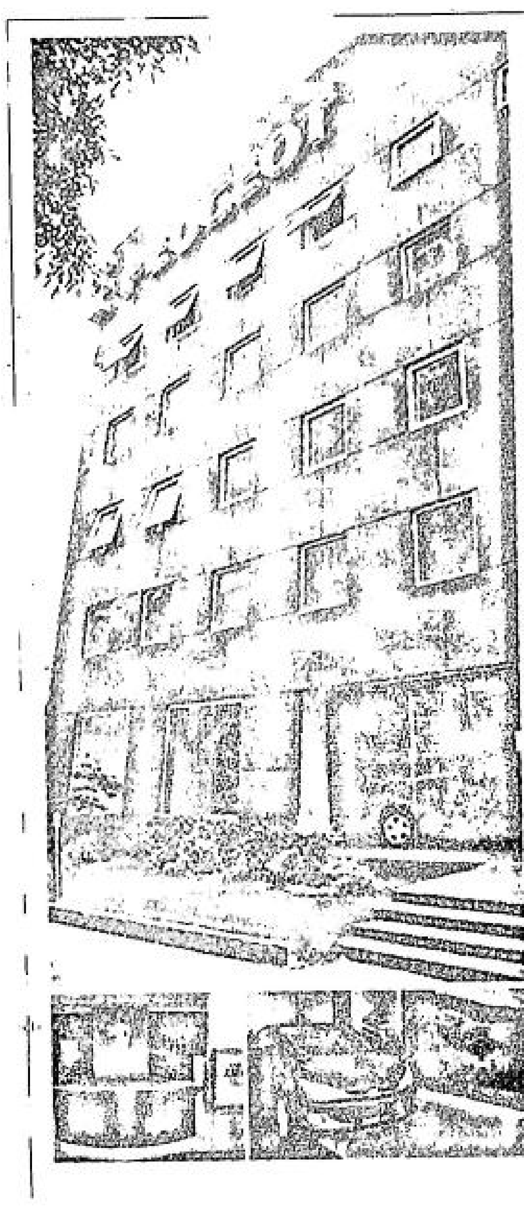
"Last month a Manila-based company offered to bring Fusion there," he said.

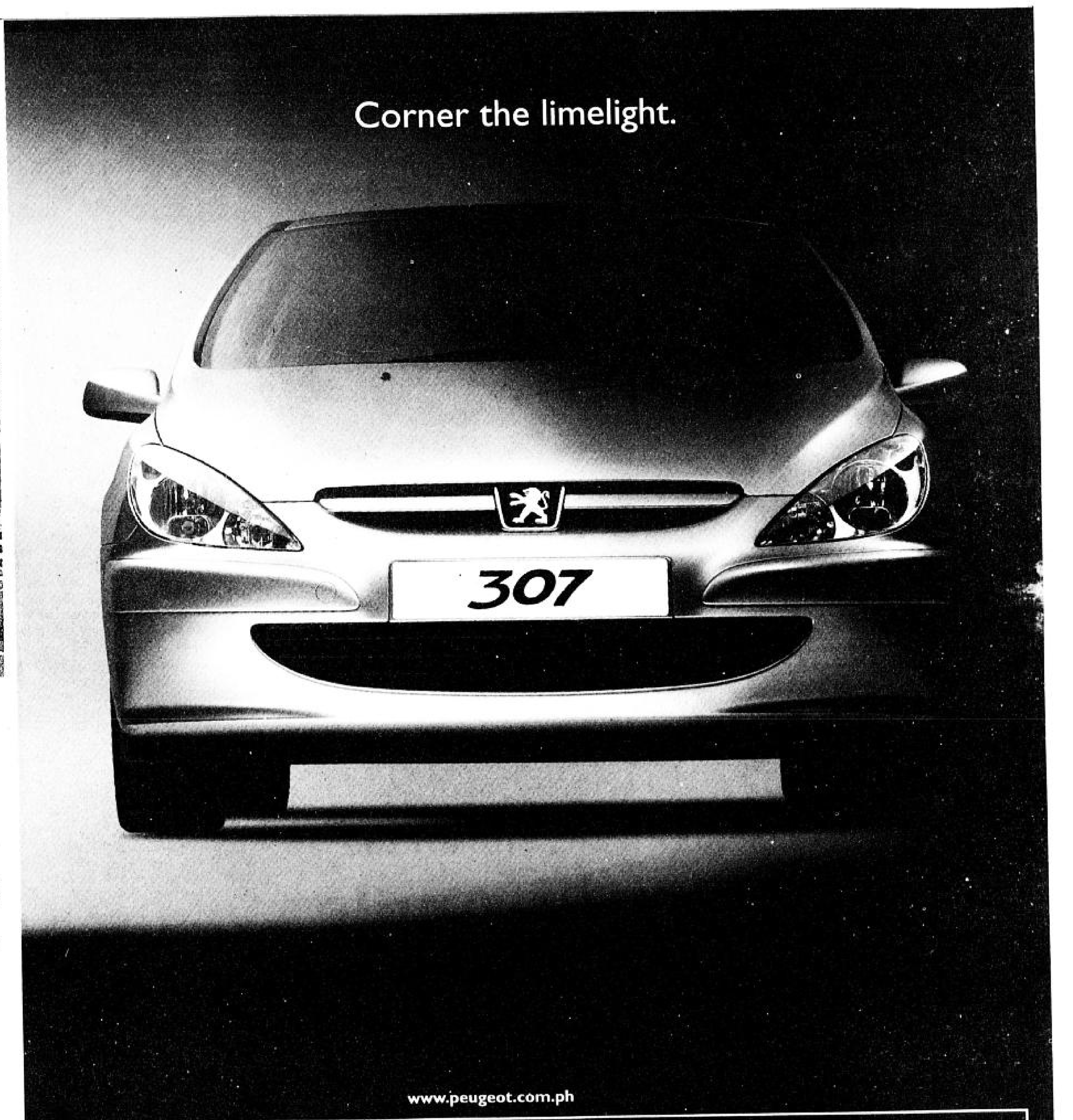
Four years into the business, Abe still wants to explore many areas in cooking. "I don't want to stay idle" he said. "I want to learn more to share with my fellow Cagayanos and the Filipinos, too."



RAQUEL P. GOMEZ

ARELLANO





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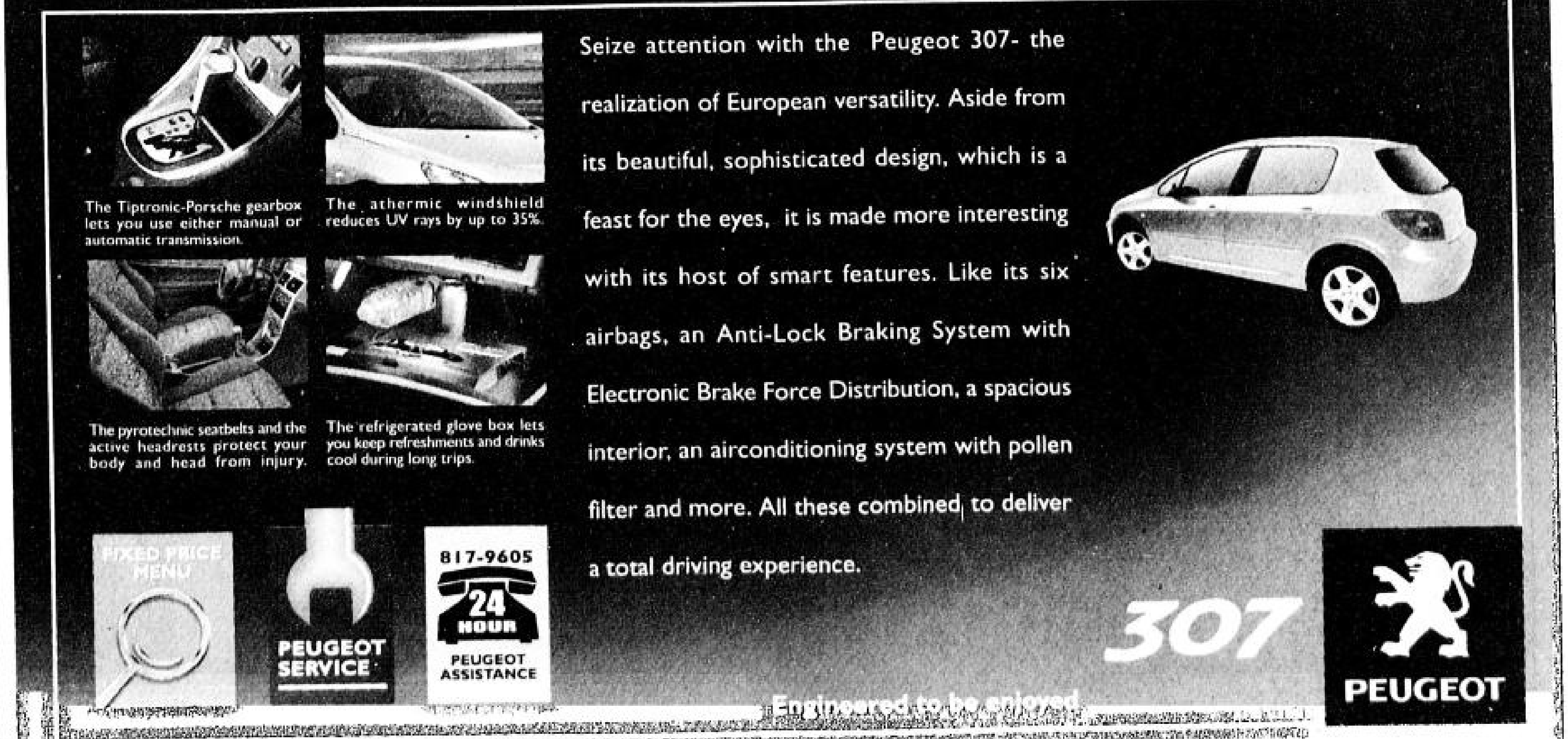

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Emotion plus logic

A LEADER'S WAY

John C. Maxwell

AS A referee in the National Football League for 31 years, Jim Tunney had myriad opportunities to witness great teams in action. He officiated at no less than 29 postseason games (an NFL record), including 10 championships and three Super Bowls.

Now a respected motivational speaker, Tunney uses what he observed on the football field to help organizations and corporations build winning teams. For example, he believes that clearly defined goals are a key component to team success—both on and off the field.

"If employees don't understand their company's goals and its game plan, these goals won't be achieved," he says. "Football doesn't make this mistake. Its goals are always clearly defined. At the end of the field is a goal line. Why do we call it a goal line? Because 11 people on the offensive team huddle for a single purpose—to move the ball across it."

From a business perspective, not all goals are quite so obvious—or so clear-cut in attainability. But whether you're talking about players in uniform or team members at the office, one thing is certain: Vision determines the direction of the team.

When it comes to casting a compelling vision, I believe that there are two critical elements: emotional and logical transference. This is where many leaders go wrong. Some are great at explaining their vision logically, but they lack the emotion necessary to carry it forward. Others are very emotional when casting a vision, but they lack the logic to sustain it.

If you want to cast a vision that will send your team in the right direction for the long haul, you must do it with logic and emotion. It's not an either/or situation. You must have both.

To transfer a vision emotionally, five elements are needed:

1. Credibility. This is the most important ingredient for successful emotional transference. The person casting the vision absolutely must have integrity. His team must know—beyond a shadow of a doubt—that he walks the walk and talks the talk.

2. Passion. It's very difficult to pass a vision on to someone else if you don't believe in it yourself. Half-hearted vision-casting simply doesn't work.

3. Relationships. The closer a leader is to the members of her team, the quicker they'll buy in to her vision.

4. Timing. There's a right time and a wrong time to cast a vision. A good vision presented at the wrong time will fail.

5. Felt need. It's hard for people to catch a vision when they don't feel the goal is necessary.

On the other hand, to transfer a vision logically, these seven components are necessary:

1. A realistic understanding of the situation today. If you're not realistic about where you are today, people will know that you don't have a clue about tomorrow. Leaders often make the mistake of trying to cast a vision for the future because they're struggling now. In other words, they use the vision to cover up their existing problems. But when you cast a vision, your people must know that you understand your current situation. Otherwise, they'll simply roll their eyes and think, "If he isn't realistic about where we are right now, how can he ever be realistic about where we want to go?"

2. An experienced team. It's tough to keep a vision alive without seasoned players who comprehend why it's important to the success of your organization.

3. A sound strategy. The step-by-step process of how you're going to achieve your vision must be well-reasoned and watertight; otherwise it will fall apart.

4. Acceptance of responsibility by the leaders. The success of a vision nearly always is based upon the buy-in of the leaders who are willing to sign their names to the bottom-line number, whatever it is. Don't even attempt to cast a vision until your leaders are ready to put their names by the bottom line.

5. The celebration and communication of each victory. Such recognition provides an infusion of enthusiasm and gives your people something concrete to hold on to as they continue to move toward the ultimate goal of fulfilling the vision.

6. Evaluation and communication for each defeat. Be as open about explaining the defeats as you are about celebrating the victories. After each setback, tell your team, "Here's what we did wrong; here's why we did not accomplish what we need to."

7. Time. This is interesting, isn't it? To emotionally transfer a vision, you need proper timing. To logically transfer it, you just need time.

What happens when emotion joins logic in the transference of a vision? People unite around the goal and start working to achieve it because they believe in what they're doing and they understand why they're doing it.

That's how teams win—both on and off the field.

Thank you to all of you who were with me during my time in Manila. I wish you success and fulfillment as you raise your leadership to a higher level. God bless you all!

MOVEMENTS

Mt. Malarayat has new GM

THE ACTIVE Group's chair and founder, Antonio A. Turalba Sr., recently appointed hotel expert, Alan Dimayuga, as general manager of the newly opened Mt. Malarayat Golf and Country Club Hotel.

Dimayuga brings to the Mt. Malarayat Club Hotel yeras of experience in the hospitality industry. His skill and expertise in hotel management come from years of working for different hotels and hotel management chains.

He has worked for The Peninsula Manila, Holiday Inn Manila, The Manila Pavilion Hotel, The Philippine Village Hotel and Palm Plaza Hotel.

Before his appointment, Dimayuga also managed The Plantation Bay Resort in Mactan Island, Cebu.

For the Mt. Malarayat Club Hotel, Dimayuga hopes to provide club members and their guests a world-class welcome and a pleasurable stay in the middle of a setting of beauty, warmth and hospitality.

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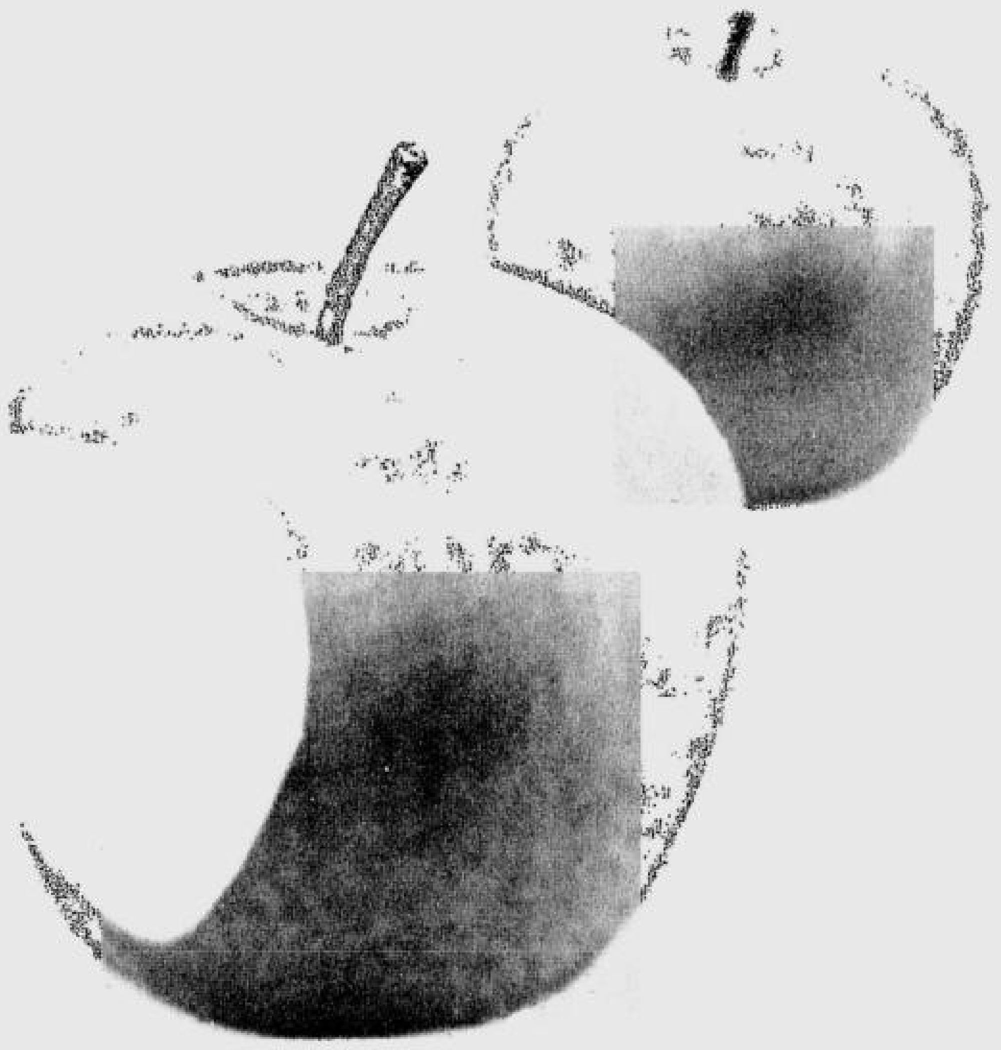

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BULAN, a Bagobo prince, being taught how to deal with the Americans by Antonio (Raffy Tejada), a Bontoc chieftain

MIGUEL Castro as Bulan in "St. Louis Loves Dem Filipinos"

Savagely powerful theater

By Gibbs Cadiz

THE 300-SEATER Wilfrido Ma. Guerrero Theater on the second floor of Palma Hall in UP Diliman, so-named in honor of a great and beloved dramatist, is too cramped, too shabby and too puny nowadays to contain the majesty and gravity of the new homegrown musical, "St. Louis Loves Dem Filipinos," that is lighting up the venue until the end of the month.

The pantheon of locally produced musicals dealing with themes of country, history and identity is slim. The dense subject matter is, understandably enough, often perceived as a drag by modern audiences, who would rather watch, say, Trumpets' "The Little Mermaid" (a perfectly diverting stage confection, no apologies needed) than Lucien Letaba's fiery "1896," about the Philippine Revolution.

Captivating

Repertory Philippines' first original Filipino musical, "Miong," charted the rise of Emilio Aguinaldo from simple country lad to first Philippine president in middling terms. Letaba and Bienvenido Lumbera's modern take on the *zarzuela*, "Hibik at Himagsik nina Victoria Laktaw," while rousingly captivating, had more in common with operettas than with contemporary Broadway-style musicals. "Himala," on the other hand, in its original cinematic form a mesmerizing exploration of faith and superstition, became a cold, avant-garde exercise in atonal musical expression in Vince de Jesus' stage rephrasing.

Interestingly, it is Ryan Cayabyab, a vital force in local pop music for decades now, who has come closest to melding weighty historical subject matter with the charm, suppleness and razzmatazz of classic Broadway in such landmark productions as "Katy," "Larawan" and "Sino Ka Ba, Jose Rizal?"

"Katy," about the colorful life of jazz legend Katy dela Cruz, was expansive enough to provide a glimpse of a vanished era of vaudeville and the beginnings of mass entertainment in this country. That historical fluency was in full flower in the subsequent "Larawan," which, with a libretto by Rolando Tinio from the original Nick Joaquin play, managed to resurrect the sights and sounds of Hispanic Manila in all its faded, run-down grandeur.

These high points in local musical theater show that original Filipino musicals in the Broadway or West End mold need not end at plain fun or entertainment, honorable as those intentions may be. They can also enrich us, shine a light on our collective spirit and give strong voice to our patriotic impulses.

Firm addition

That is the gift galvanizingly offered by "St. Louis Loves Dem Filipinos," a musical retelling of a play written by Floy Quintos that was originally mounted by Tony Mabesa for Dulaang UP in 1992. "St. Louis" the musical is not without shortcomings, but in its present form, it is already lofty, powerful, consequential—a firm addition to the pool of theatrical musical material exploring the contours of our national soul.

Quintos' play revisits a largely forgotten footnote in the history of Fil-American relations: the infamous Philippine participation in the 1904 World Trade Exposition in St. Louis, Missouri, which saw representative members of local tribes like the Igorots and the Bagobos shipped off to the US and displayed at the fair as "savages" deserving of America's imperial benevolence and protection.

Leading this scantily clad, strange-looking delegation was Datu Bulan, a proud Bagobo prince from Davao. Bulan—his long, black hair later becoming a star attraction in the

SAVAGELY/ C2

The musical version of the drama about the infamous 1904 World Fair that portrayed Filipinos as savages is lofty, consequential

LESLIE Diaz as Leon Ma. Guerrero and Bong Embile as Pedro Paterno

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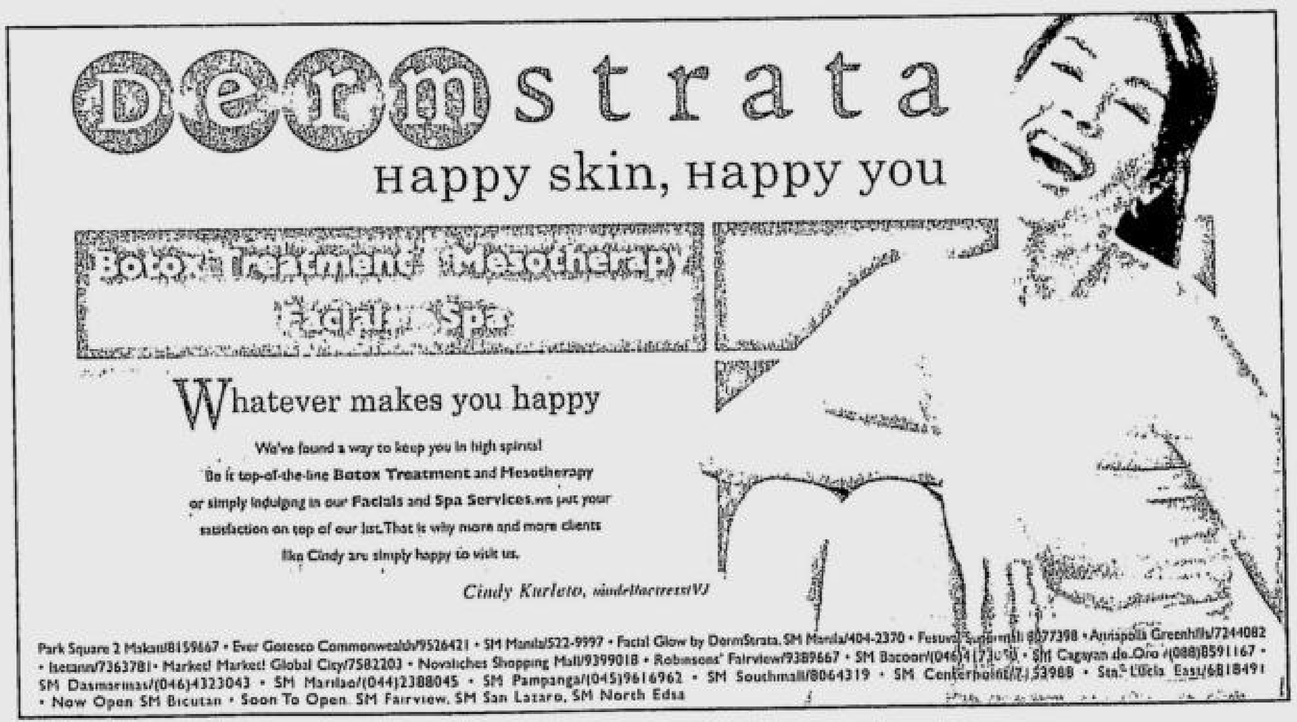

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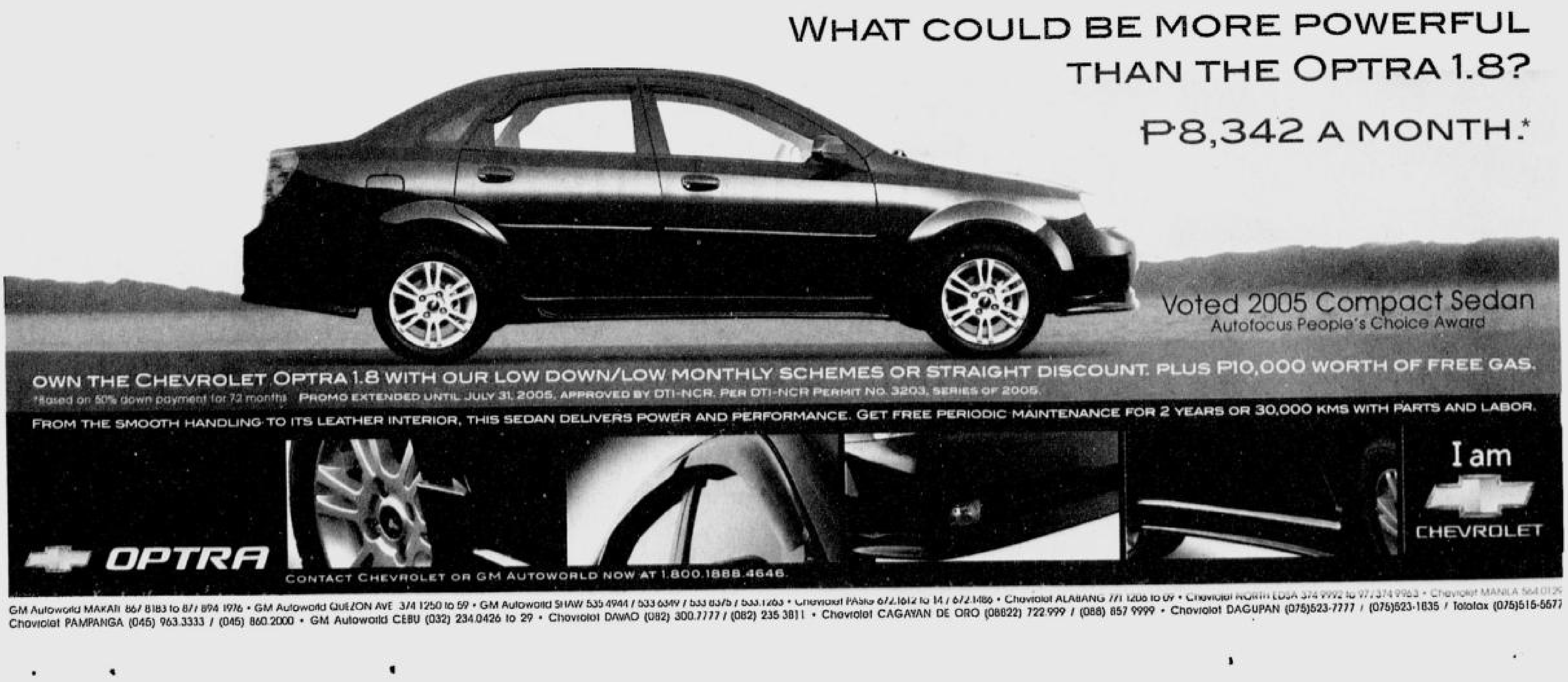

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Ballet Manila's 'Swan Lake' features New York silver medalist

CHRISTINE Rocas, soloist of Ballet Manila and silver medalist of NY International Ballet Competition, in the role of Odette/Odile

THE SILVER medalist of the New York International Ballet Competition, Christine Rocas, will essay the dual role of Odette/Odile in "Swan Lake" for the first time in Ballet Manila's 10th Season opening at the Aliw Theater in Star City, Cultural Center of the Philippines Complex.

Ballet Manila's "Swan Lake" will feature the country's finest and strongest classical ballet dancers—a corps of 24 swans showcasing the unique Russian Vaganova style.

Fresh from the success of landing in the semifinals and finals of the Helsinki, Moscow, New York and Nagoya international ballet competitions, with United Airlines as official carrier, Ballet Manila dancers will be led by principal dancer and artistic director Lisa Macuja-Elizalde in performing the full length ballet.

DEMI soloist Marian Faustino, soloist Jerome Espejo and demi soloist Mylene Aggabao

Macuja will play Odette/Odile with Rocas as alternate.

Performance dates are Aug. 5 at 6 p.m., Aug. 6, 12 and 13 at 1 p.m.

Call 4000292, 4043086 and 525-5967. E-mail info@balletmanila.net or visit www.balletmanila.net.

Tickets to the ballet serve as entrance to Star City, inclusive of a ride-all-you-can gift certificate.

PRIMA ballerina Lisa Macuja Elizalde in the role of Odile in "Swan Lake"

Savagely powerful . . .

From page C1

fair—brought his wife and tribesmen to America in a star-crossed voyage to "do something great," only to see his princely dreams dashed, his identity stripped away, by the white man's contempt for his culture and way of life.

Fluid storytelling

On paper this sounds like so much heavy stuff. But rendered in musical form by composer Antonio Paterno Africa and energetically directed by Alexander Cortez, the play achieves something altogether artful: a light-handed, fluid storytelling that drains out the ponderous politics while highlighting strong emotions and sympathetic characters. Despite its knotty roots, "St. Louis" is remarkably non-didactic, emotionally lucid and accessible. To use a cliche, it makes history come alive, in a sweeping, spellbinding way.

Africa's musical score is the thread that, a bit flimsily, stitches this tapestry together. The composer seems to have toyed with and discarded a number of musical motifs while writing the melodies, such that some songs still have an unfinished, fragmentary feel to them. An example is the reprise of "Pusong Naglalakbay," which ends Act I on an bafflingly weak note.

With more robust orchestration and polishing, vividly expressive songs such as "So Much Prosperity," "I Hold You There" and "Hold Your Head High" can bear out the promise of the material (notwithstanding Quintos' occasionally banal lines like "They call this the land of plenty, so why do I feel so lost and empty?"). The bridge music in-between acts, in any case, is sprightly, summoning a sunny sense of jazz, blues and ragtime in their period prime.

Ghostly images

Cortez's vigorous direction takes a leaf from his own staging of "Hibik at Himagsik nina Victoria Laktaw" in his use of turn-of-the-century pictures and footage projected on the curtain to open the next act. The cavalcade of ghostly images hurls the audience right into that tumultuous milieu, making palpable the issues of colliding cultures and identities that give the story its dramatic spine.

The burden of that history must have weighed acutely on the actors, for their delivery, for the most part, is distinguished by a penetrating clarity and directness. The expo committee trio played by Leo Rialp, Richard Cunanan and James Paolelli is superb, while Mae Ann Valentin, in her short role as Bulan's wife Momayon, exhibits a beguiling voice and a regal stage presence. In the role of Antonio, an Americanized Bontoc chieftain spewing pidgin English, Raffy Tejada chews up the scenery.

Jake Macapagal as the narrator and Ronan Capinding as his granddad are fine actors, but Capinding really blazes across the stage in one of the play's most commanding moments, a race riot number called "Goo Goo Monkey, Come Out and Play." The ensemble's use of the *arnis* to simulate backbreaking fieldwork in America's 1930's dustbowls is stirringly dramatic, recalling a similar staging in Loy Arcenas' "Ang Romansa ni Magno Rubio" at the CCP last year.

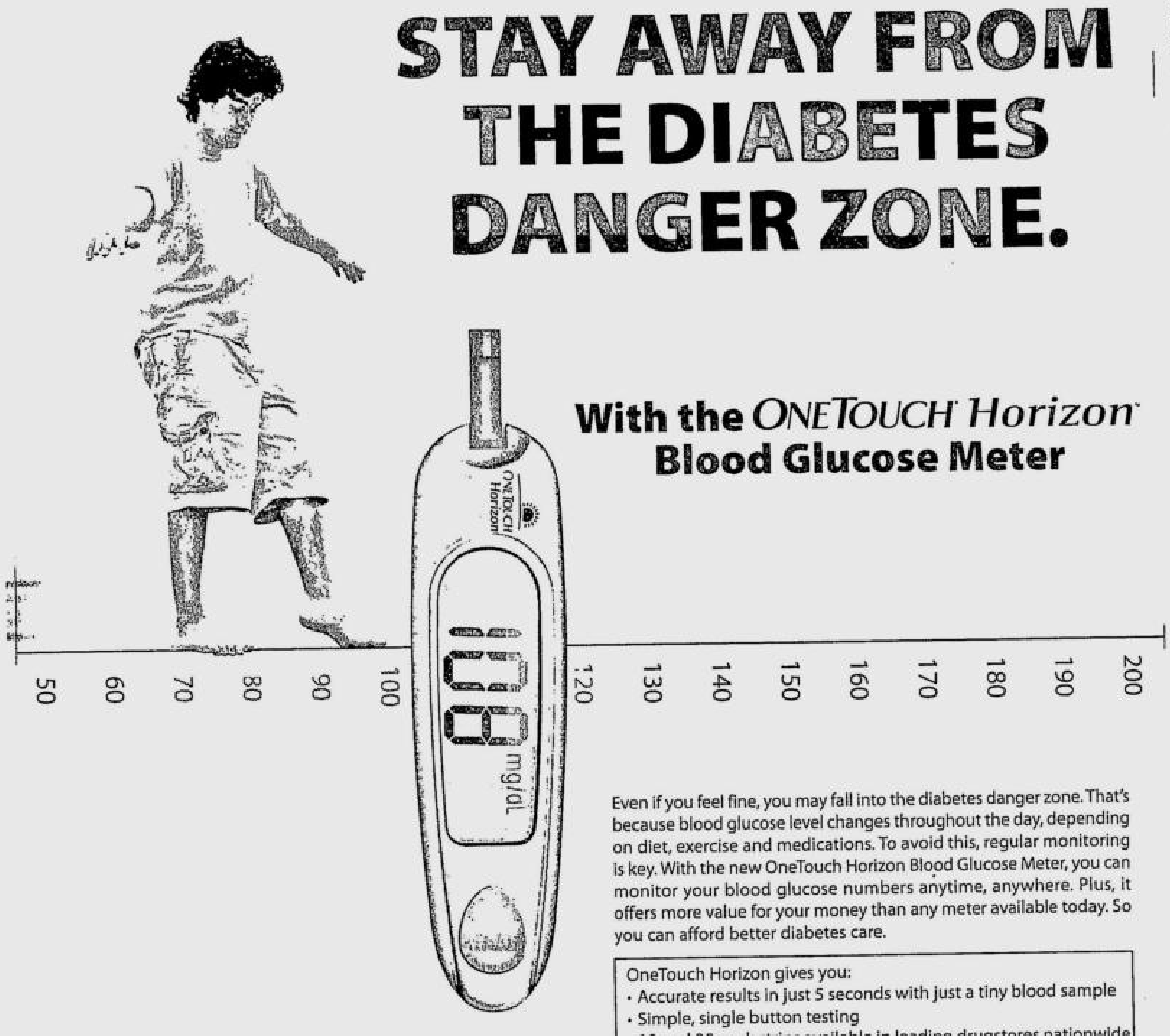
"St. Louis" is, most indelibly, a triumph for Miguel Castro as Bulan. By turns haughty, starry-eyed, obstinate, baffled, broken, his journey from prince to pauper feels complete, substantial. The last scene—Bulan, now an old man without a country and a people, reaching for his old royal headscarf and breaking down—is indescribably moving. It's a pure moment of theater that distills everything good and worth fighting for about one's roots.

With "St. Louis Loves Dem Filipinos," Philippine theater just got richer by one new landmark musical.

"St. Louis Loves Dem Filipinos" runs until July 31 at the Wilfrido Ma. Guerrero Theater in UP Diliman. Call 9261349, 9205301 local 6441, 9818500 local 2450/2445.

E-mail the author at gcadiz@inquirer.com.ph

CLARENCE (James Paolelli, left) and Worcester (Richard Cunanan), members of the expo committee, with Bulan



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Michael Victor Coo in standout concert

By Antonio C. Hila
Contributor

CELLIST Michael Victor Coo revealed marvelous facets of his artistry, exquisitely expressing warmth, intensity and dynamic power in his most recent concert at Pasig Museum with collaborative pianist Mary Anne Espina.

The concert was a standout. Coo produced fresh and ebullient tone from a confident, relaxed stance, secured by a thorough technical grounding. Above all, musicality was of the highest order; he showed a literate understanding of stylistic nuance over naive intuition.

Beyond playing the notes correctly with breathtaking rapidity, or etching dynamics starkly, "Loni," as Coo is fondly called, is a virtuoso in the truest sense of the word.

Technical brilliance merely serves as a vehicle for conveying a mature sense of musicality, which proceeds from a well-thought-of and stylistically correct reading of the pieces. Well-crafted phrases are etched from beginning to end.

His palette yields brilliant hues. His brand of playing definitely makes for a sublime listening. Truly, he knows his métier.

The program was excellent, made up of works of Boccherini, Beethoven, De Falla, Glazunov, Tchaikovsky and Abelardo.

From the exuberant tones he crafted in Boccherini's Sonata No. 6 in A Major, Loni was thoroughly appreciated as he moved on to his next pieces. Beethoven's Sonata in A Major, Op. 69 had a light, well-tempered appeal that revealed well-nuanced phrasing.

He shifted his gear to romantic disposition of the next pieces, singing warmly in the selections from Siete Canciones, of De Falla. His fingers ran adeptly through the entire fingerboard in Tchaikovsky's Pezzo Capricioso, Op. 62 and Glazunov's "Chant du menestrel."

Abelardo's "Cavatina" was rendered with utmost suaveness which retained its songlike simplicity. He did not indulge in melodrama, just plain, quiet singing.

Mary Anne Espina was in tight rapport, striking a workable tandem that made listening enjoyable. Her playing has improved immensely, showing much muscle in her tones.

A fast sight-reader, there is no way for her but to continually shine more. Eventually her tones would achieve much finesse to spell out a more relaxed touch with full dynamic depth.

The concert was the final offering of the 4th Pasig Summer Music Festival presented by Music News and Features. Former Pasig City vice mayor Lorna Bernardo graced the occasion. She was the moving force behind the festival which started some years ago, said Pablo Tariman, who hosted the concert.

Alegria Ferrer

ALEGRIA Ferrer

Kudos to Alegria Ferrer, whose singing career is in full bloom, after she had bagged the Aliw Award as best female classical performer last year.

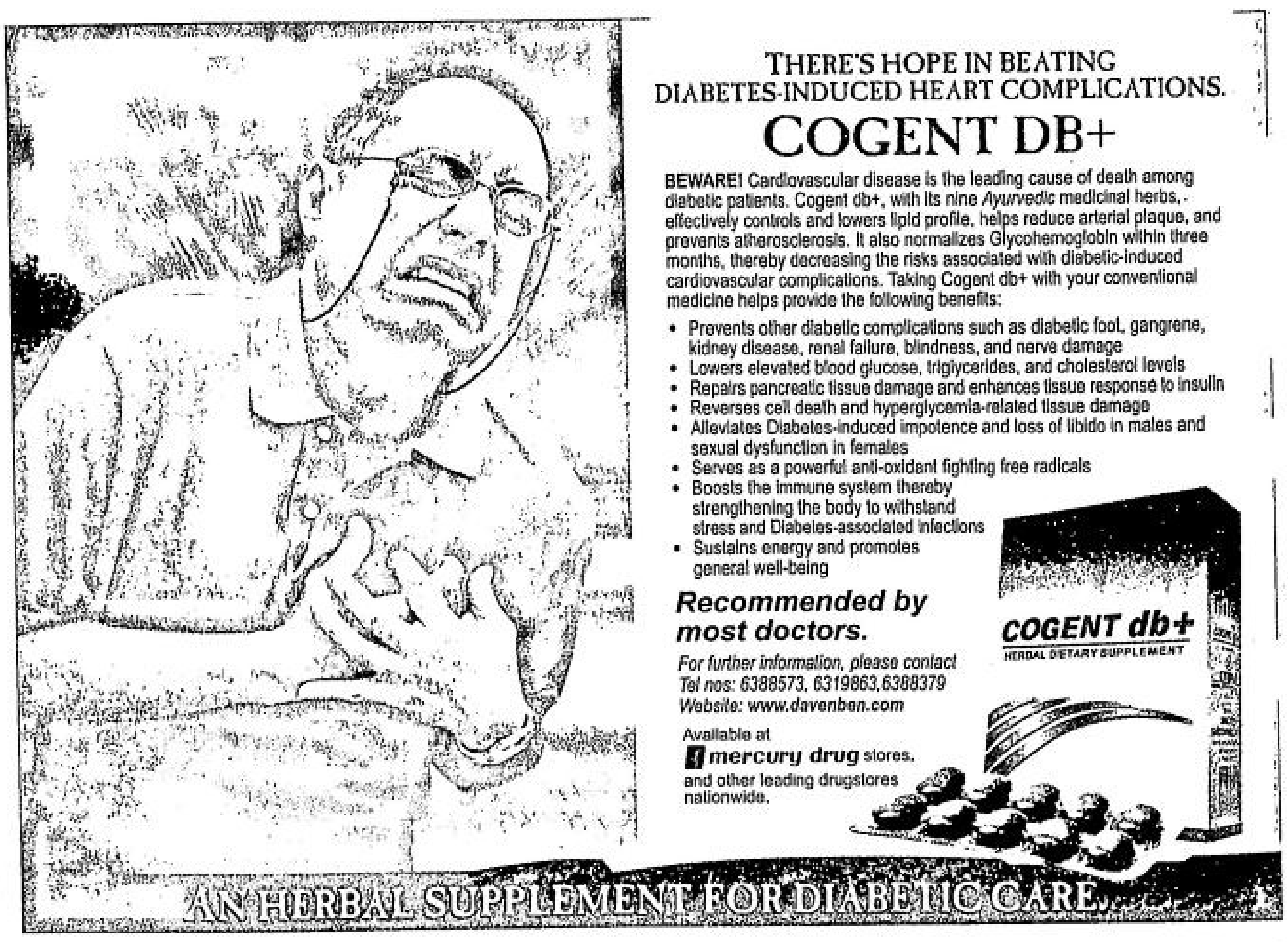
She stunned listeners with her moving rendition of Feliciano's "Locura Aria" from the opera "La Loba Negra" at the CCP last November. This feat was followed by her engagement with the PPO concert in December as a soloist of Bach's "Magnificat in D Major."

Singing in the *bel canto* style, she became the darling of opera-lovers in her magnificent portrayal of Euridice in Gluck's "Orpheus and Euridice," staged at Abeladro Hall in UP Diliman in March.

Twice, she sang in Japan, which were both well-received. She graced the celebration of the 21st International Philippine Festival in Nagoya, held in connection with the recent celebration of the 107th Philippine Independence.

She went back to Japan on July 14 and sang at the World Expo at Aichi before the commissioners and generals and pavilion directors. Both engagements received critical acclaim. Our warmest congratulations!

"QUADRILLE" pianists Raul Sunico, Mary Ann Armovit, Della Besa and Anamaria de Guzman play for a cause on Aug. 4, 7:30 p.m. at the Francisco Santiago Hall, Equitable PCI Band, Dela Costa St., Makati. The concert is sponsored by the MCO Foundation, the Equitable Bank and the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office.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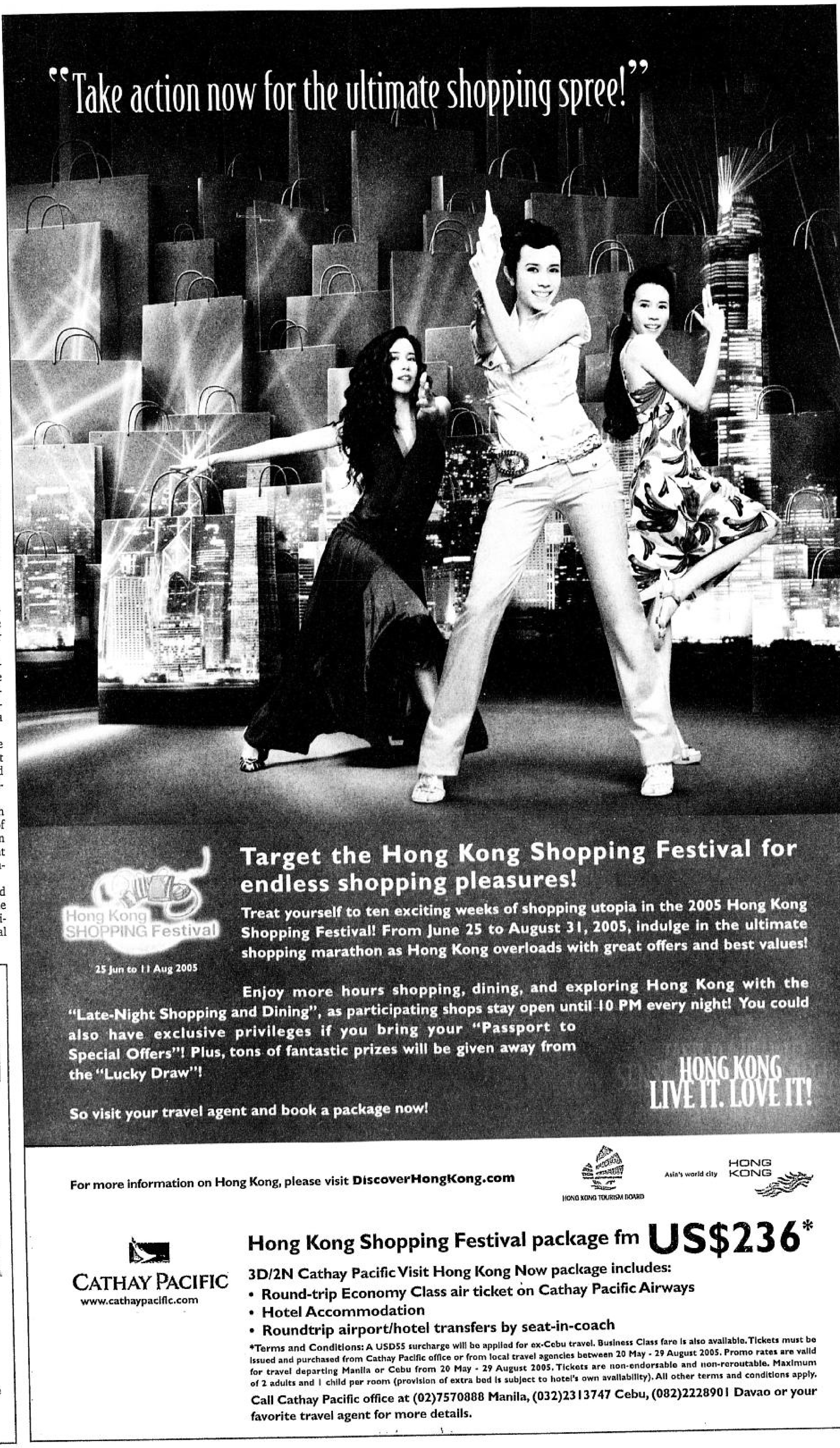
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Another eventful homecoming for Filipino tenor

Gonzaga's homecoming concerts have always been before or after a political upheaval

By Pablo A. Tariman
Contributor

A WEEK before his much-awaited homecoming concert on July 26 at the Philamlife Theater, tenor Otoniel Gonzaga answered questions not just about his music but also the current political situation.

"One thing you can say," Gonzaga told the INQUIRER, "things are never dull in our country."

Gonzaga's homecoming concerts have always been before or after a political upheaval.

His first major homecoming concert was in 1987 shortly after Corazon Aquino became president. Another concert was just before Estrada's ouster. On this visit, Estrada's successor, Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, is being asked to resign.

Laughingly, he suggests a "reality show on who wants to be the next president. Just fall in line."

But the tenor has not lost faith in the Philippines. "I love the country of my birth," he says with pride. "I think we have a lot to offer to the world as soon as we get our house in order."

He admits it is sad the country has been in disarray for a very long time. "History has a way of repeating itself... Corruption and scandals happen because we allow them to. We pay lip service to the so-called Christian principles..."

Gonzaga, Placido Domingo's alternate in the coming opening season of Washington, D.C.'s National Opera (a triple bill that includes the second act of Giordani's "Fedora" with Mirella Freni; the final act of Verdi's "Otello"; and the final act of Lehar's "The Merry Widow"), dreams of mounting "Otello" and "Turandot" in Manila.

Otello and Calaf ("Turandot") have been his signature roles in the last few seasons. His role as the prince in Lehar's "Land of Smiles," which has never been done in the Philippines, has made him rather well-known in Europe, having sung more than 600 times in over 30 productions, two of them on television.

"It is really my dream to introduce 'Otello' and 'Land of Smiles' to our people to give them an opportunity to hear at least three great works done by their countryman in world-class quality."

Asked how it feels to be Domingo's alternate, Gonzaga says: "It is a special honor to be asked by a great artist like Placido Domingo to be part of the opera house he leads. I count myself lucky to have this opportunity." [During a brief conversation in the intermission of the opera 'Maid of Orleans'], he asked me if there was anything I wanted to sing. I answered that the only role ideal for me for the coming season was Arrigo in Verdi's 'Vespri Siciliani'... A few days later, I learned that he asked for me to cover for him for the triple bill of the opening season..."

England's favorite

The sensational Romanian diva Nelly Miricioiu, who was in Manila in 1980 and 1984, is now England's favorite. She also sings in major opera houses all over the world, taking over roles made famous by Maria Callas.

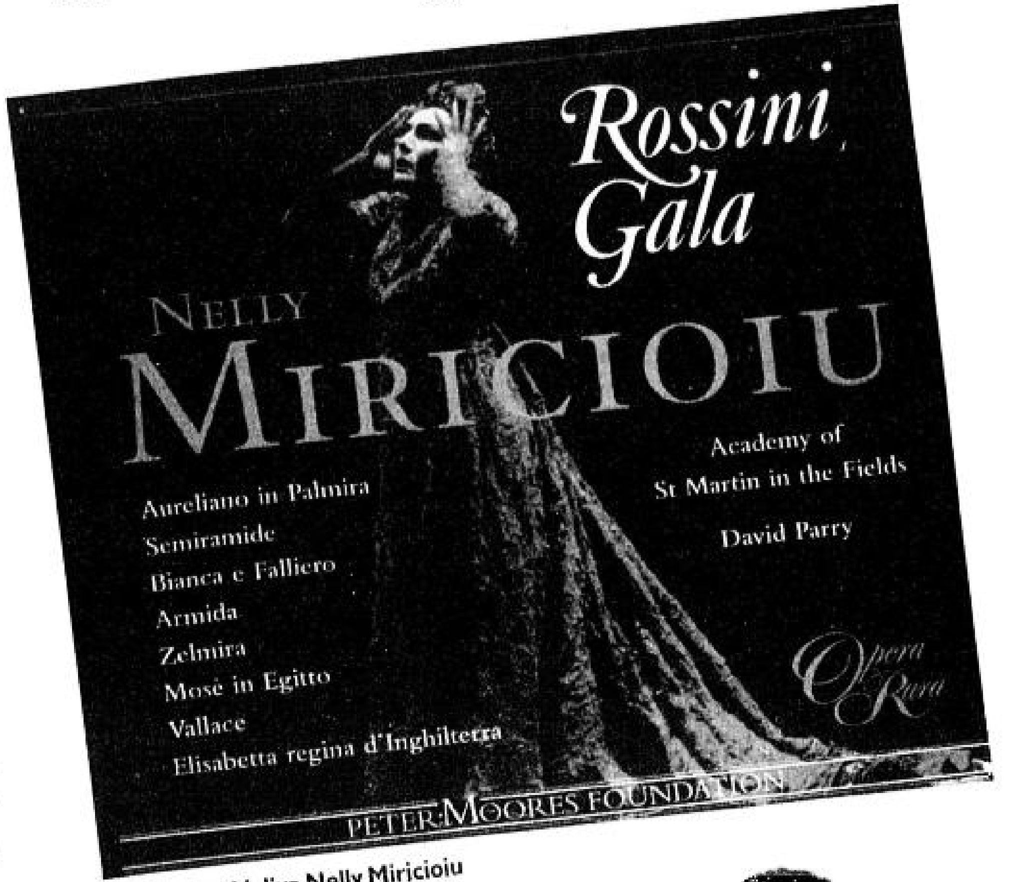
She was Mimi in "La Boheme" and Elena in "Norma" and "I Vespri Siciliani" at the Metropolitan Opera. She did "Lucia di Lammermoor" and Cilea's "Adriana Lecouvreur" at La Scala, "Tosca" at the Opera Bastille in Paris and Covent Garden with Jose Carreras, Jose Cura and Neil Schicoff.

Miricioiu just sang Norma at the Netherlands Opera and will play the title role in Rossini's "Semiramide" at the Teatro de Licea in Barcelona, Nov. 25 and 29 and Dec. 3.

A dream opera in Manila is mounting "I Vespri Siciliani" with Gonzaga as Arrigo and La Miricioiu as Elena.

By the way, the "Opera Now" show at the Cultural Center of the Philippines scheduled last week was postponed.

Gonzaga's show at the Philamlife Theater will also feature baritone Noel Azcona and soprano Joan Cano, with pianist Mary Anne Espina. For tickets, call 9017156 or 0910-8851136.



ROMANIAN diva Nelly Miricioiu

OTONIEL Gonzaga in a European opera

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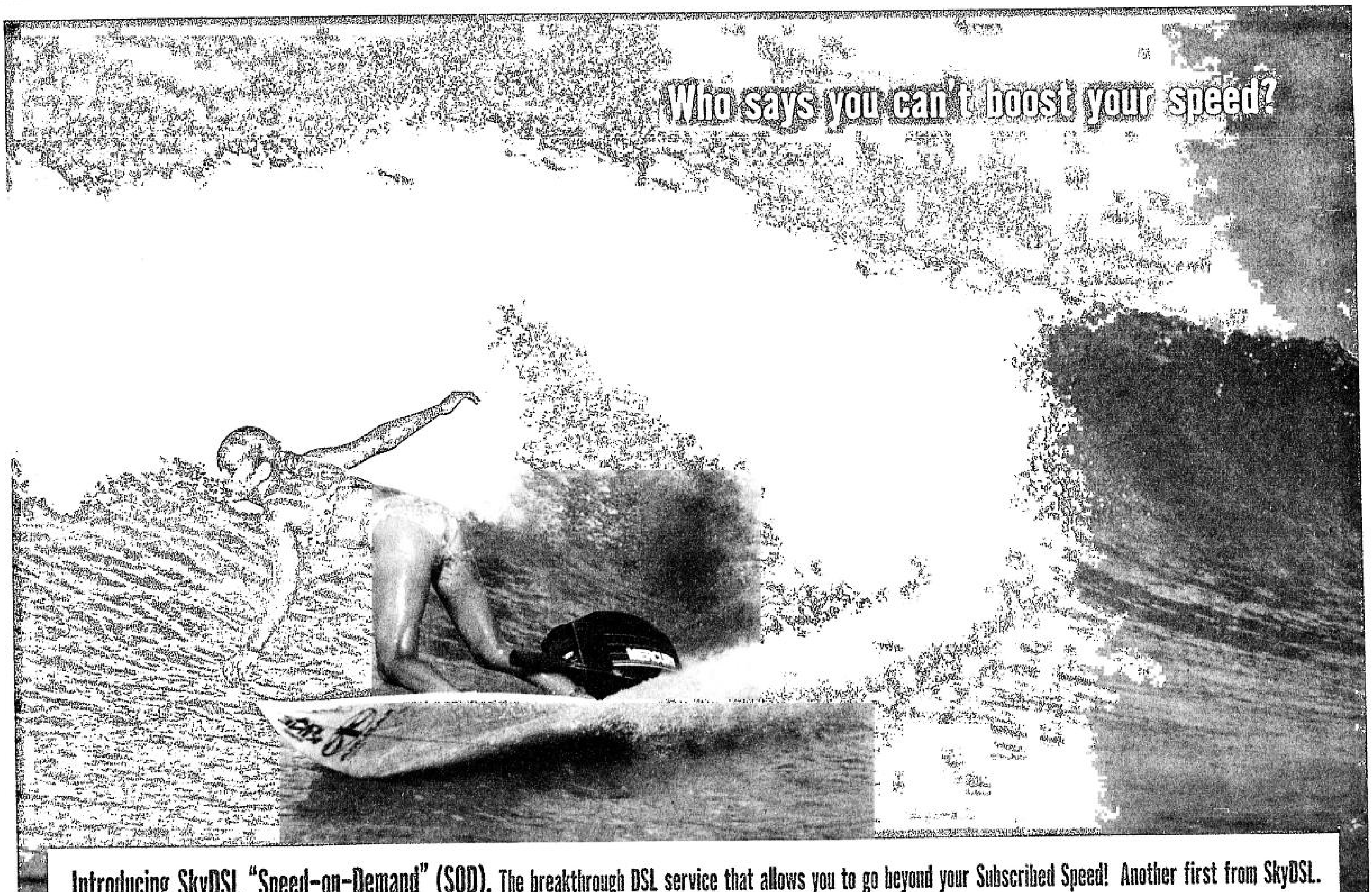

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Buffer zones needed to protect heritage

Spaces around heritage structures have become prey to officials and clerics with an 'edifice complex.' In the process, heritage setting is desecrated or destroyed

PRIDE OF PLACE

Augusto F. Villalon

THE CONSTRUCTION of new buildings inside the compounds of Balayan Church and Taal Basilica has resulted in heated controversies.

The rotunda at the center of the heritage town of Carcar in southern Cebu has an outstanding early 20th-century kiosk at its center, the only one of its kind in the country. Large billboards in the rotunda periphery erected within the past few months now obliterate the heritage urbanscape.

No law, whether national or local, protects any heritage in Carcar. On the other hand, Balayan and Taal are legally protected as heritage sites.

Balayan's is one of 26 colonial churches designated as National Treasures by the National Museum. The Taal Basilica is a national shrine protected by the National Historical Institute (NHI).

Their official heritage status prohibits alteration without National Museum or NHI approval. But this did not stop either church from undertaking constructions.

The Balayan parish priest built a fastfood store in the open space between the church façade and the street.

In one of the interior courtyards of Taal Basilica rose a Perpetual Adoration chapel, defying both NHI prohibition and a suit filed by a Taal NGO against its construction.

The issue of why the space around a heritage site should remain open is the controversy in Balayan and Taal.

Precious artifacts locked in museum cases are carefully arranged so no piece ever covers another from view. Related pieces are grouped so each can be viewed in the context of another.

Like a museum artifact, heritage structures, especially nationally or internationally designated ones, deserve to be in full view at all times and not covered by anything else.

Not only that, their neighbors should remain unblocked as well since these are the related pieces that form a group that together tells the historical story. It is called "keeping heritage in its setting."

Setting is important in architecture. A mountaintop structure has a different impact from a structure in a city plaza, one fronting a broad avenue, one located on a tight city street, or one surrounded by open fields.

Taking setting as an important consideration means architecture does not end with the walls, roofs and doorsteps of buildings. Solids and voids are essential considerations in building design, so the open space surround-

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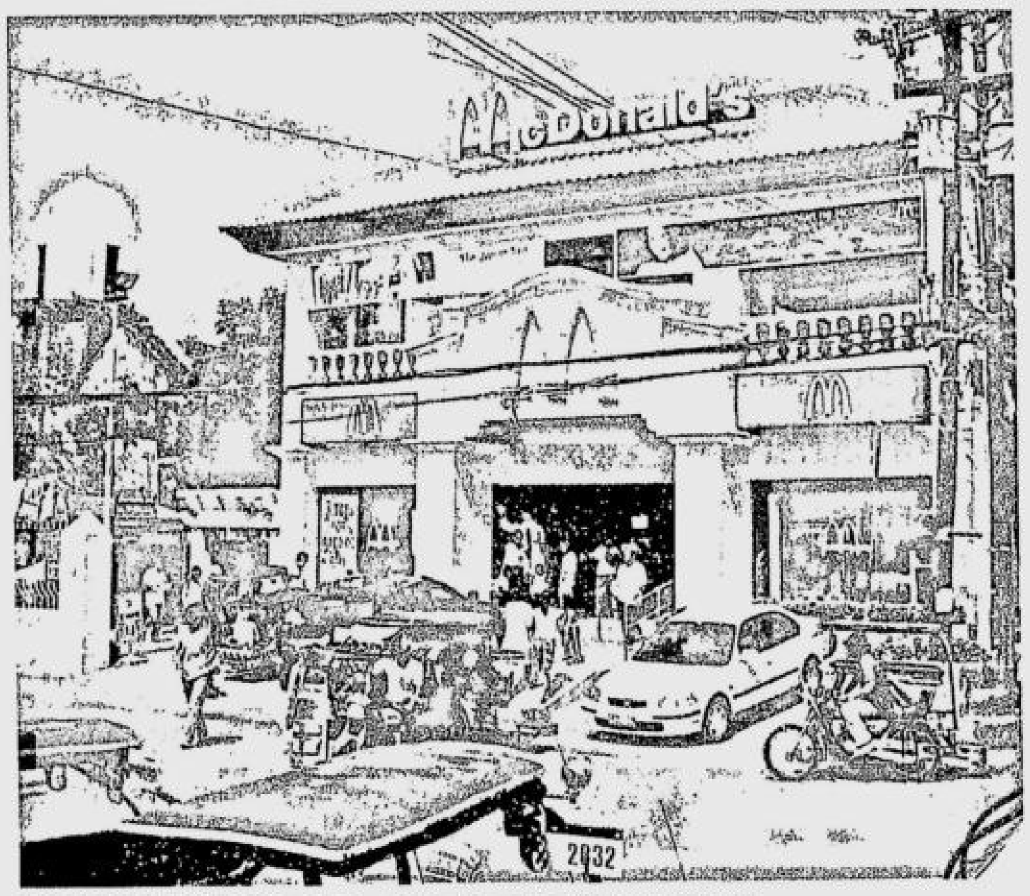
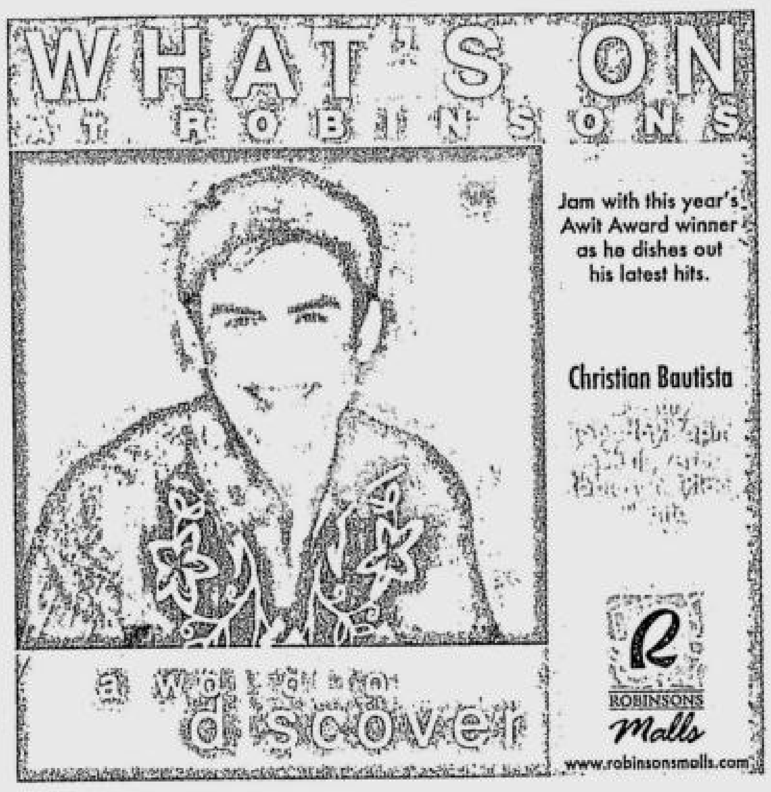


FAITH AND FASTFOOD. McDonald's in the patio of Balayan Church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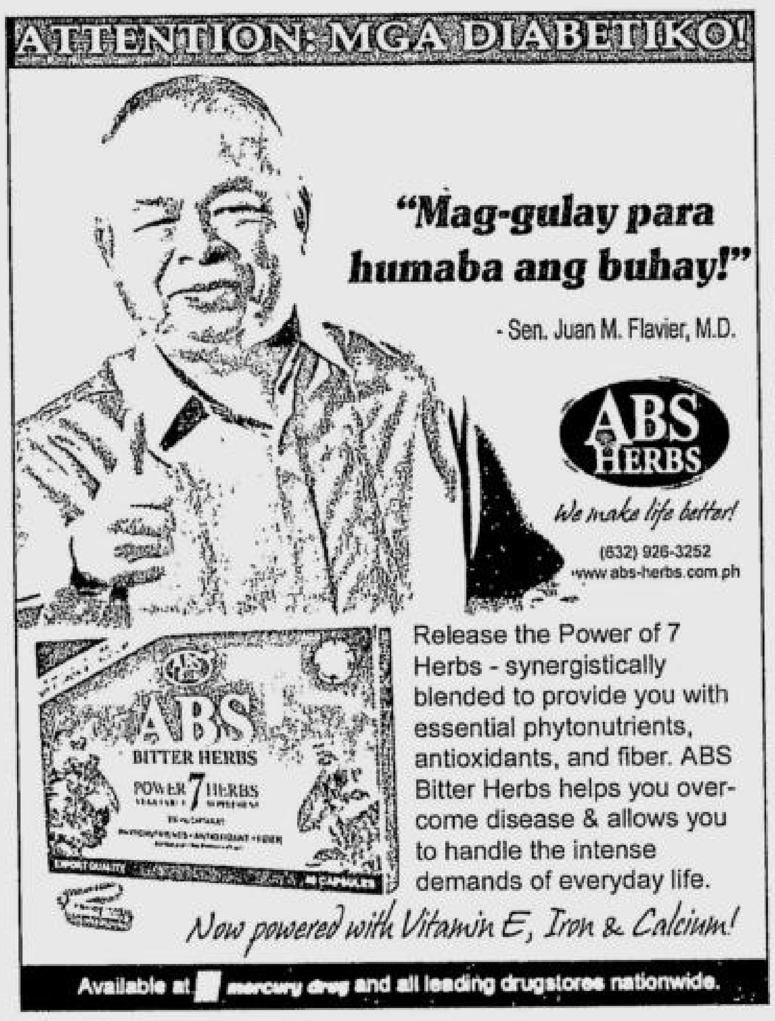
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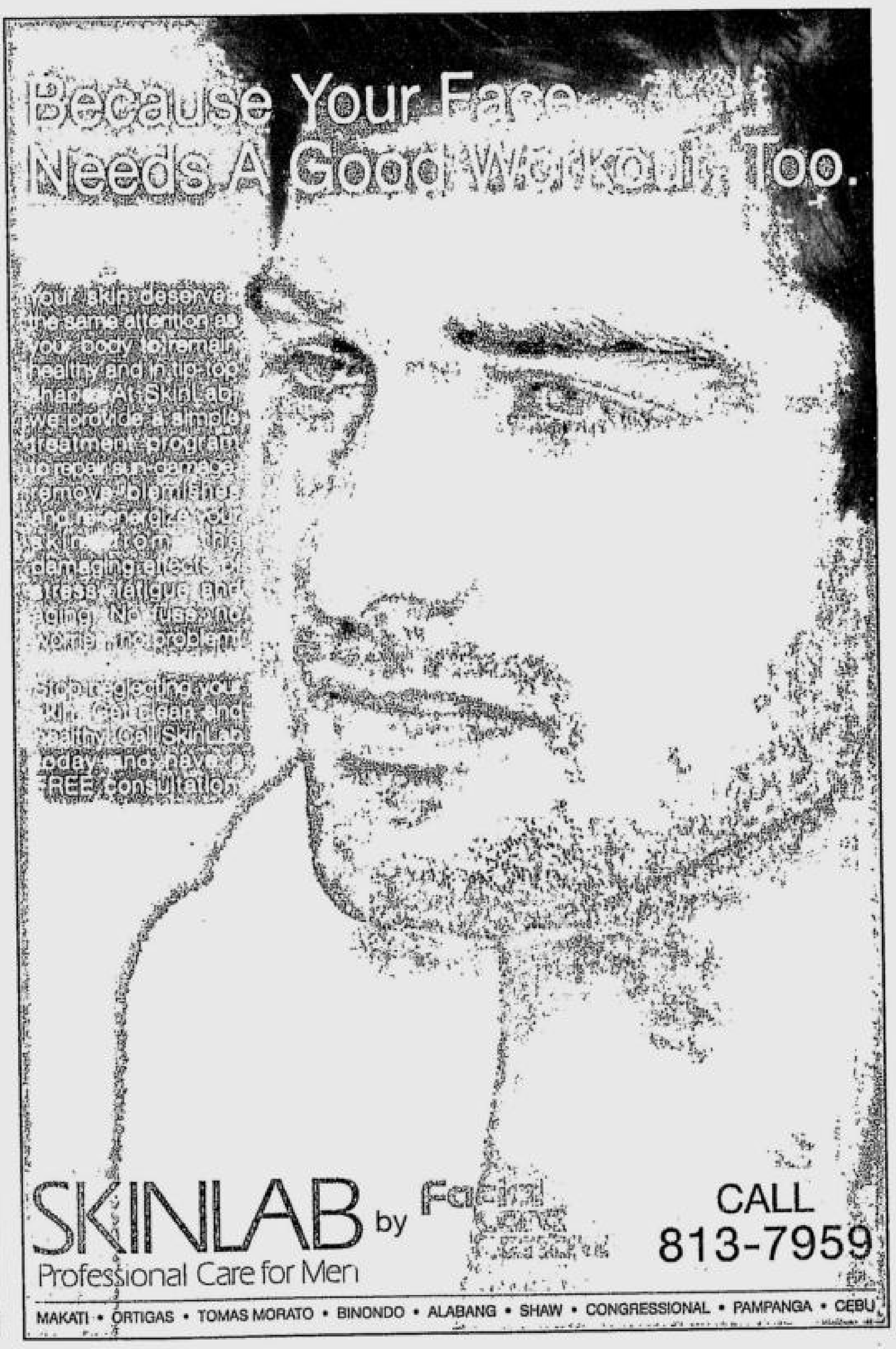
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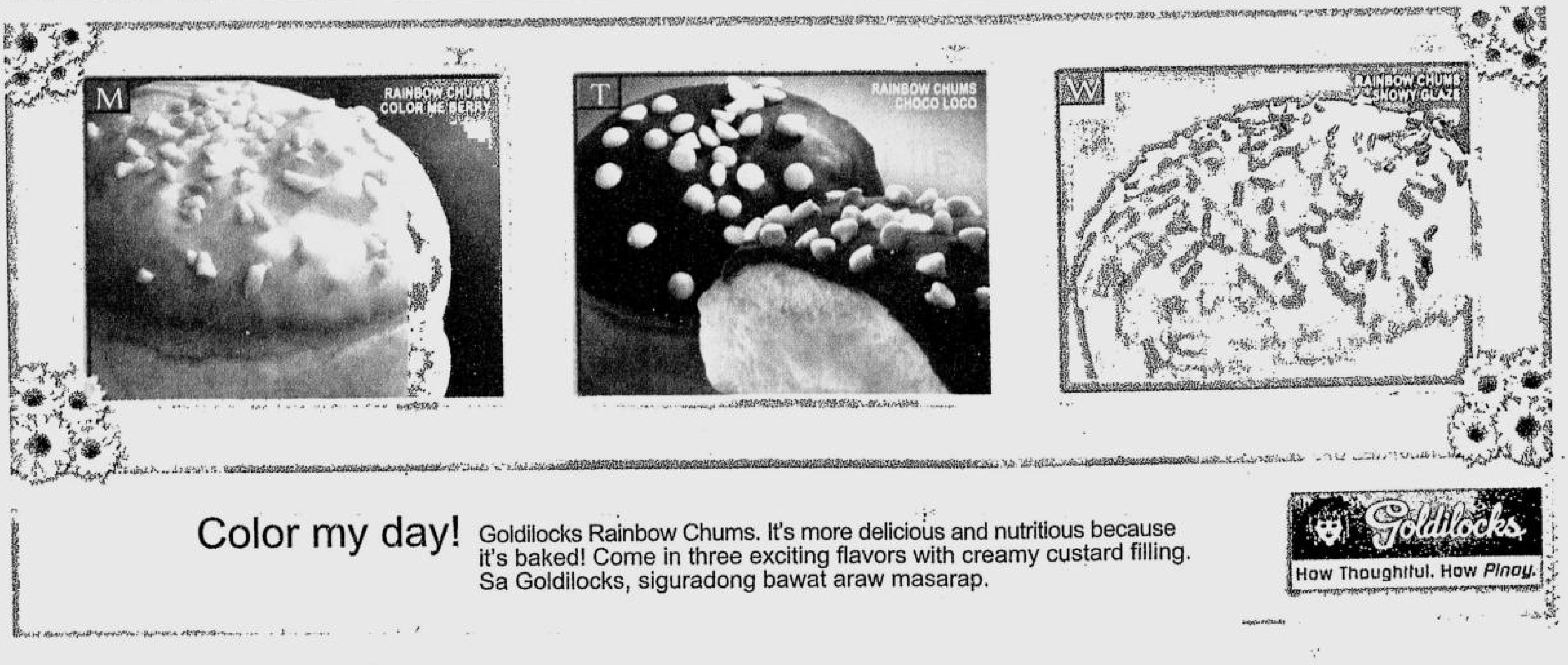
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The visual imagination

By Constantino C. Tejero
Photos by Ryan Lim

EDWIN Wilwayco and Justin Nuyda at the opening of their joint exhibit

The two complement or foil each other, verily like fire and ice

ARTIST Lydia Velasco

OF SPIRITUALLY evolved artists, one would count among them abstractionists Edwin Wilwayco and Justin Nuyda.

In some artists, whether figurative or abstract, the viewer can barely go beyond the canvas. He sees what's on it and that's it. If it's a flower, it's only a flower.

In Nuyda's art, the viewer perceives mountains and clouds, desert and dunes, in the mere undulation of brushstrokes. Or naked human flesh in the mere curving of lines.

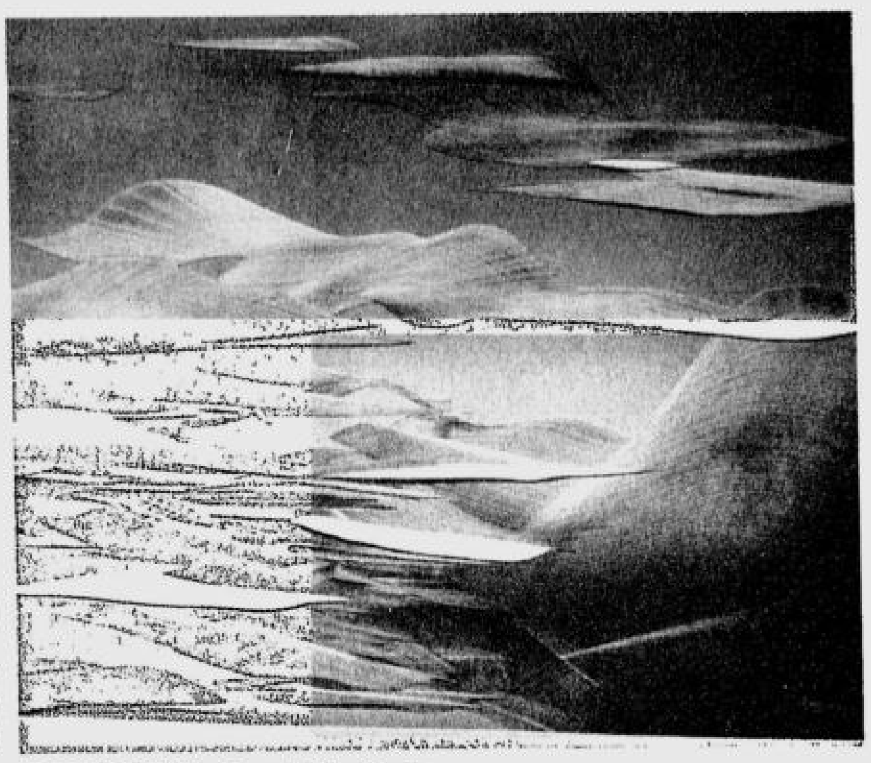
In Wilwayco's art, the invisible is made visible. It is the wind, the harvest wind, the storm wind, one feels or imagines in the rough pigments and gestural strokes on the canvas.

Verging between figuration and abstraction, their respective art goes beyond the physical. It is multi-layered so that the viewer is induced, if not forced, to imagine what's beyond the canvas. (If it looks like a cloud, it must be the hand of God.)

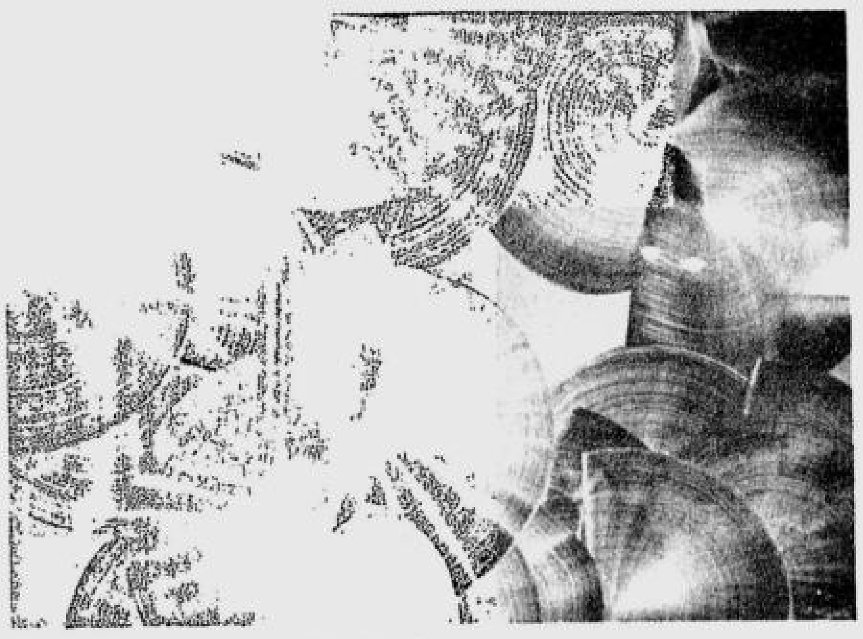
The two have such strong spirituality and visual imagination that the viewer has to be more spiritual and visually imaginative to fully appreciate their works.

It is only logical then, and quite natural, that the two artists would join in the exhibit "In2uition," until July 28 at Le Soufflé, Unit B, The Fort, Global City, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig.

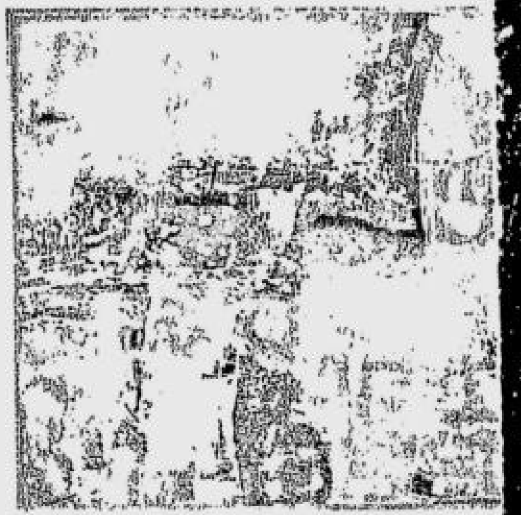
Both use similar mediums, but while Wilwayco works on oil on Fabriano paper and Nuyda works on oil on Arches paper, the former uses chiefly warm hues (gold, yellow, ochre, red) while the latter employs cool color tones (mostly blue-green). Typical are Nuyda's "Mindscape: Yesterday" and Wilwayco's "Whispering Winds."



"CLOUDS Veil the Beauty," by Nuyda



"NO BEGINNING, No End," by Nuyda



"SIGWADA" 3, by Wilwayco

Wilwayco's visual idiom is informed by Art Autre, particularly the German type of lyrical abstraction that's more restrained than American Abstract Expressionism. One sees a pattern behind the spattering, a hand guiding the direction of the flow and dripping of paint.

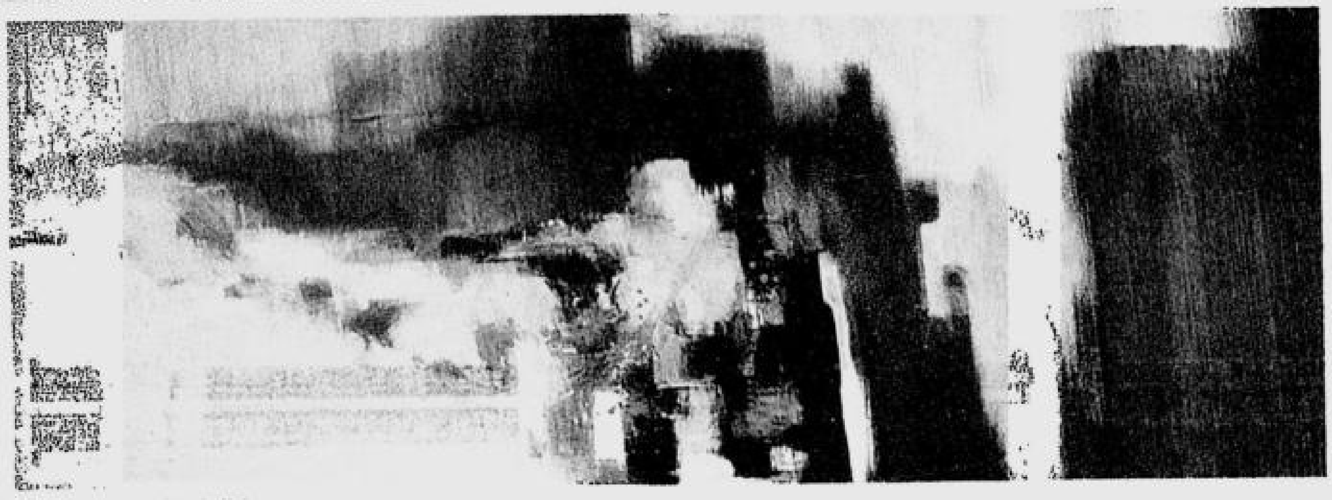
One sees it in such works as "Biyaya ng Habagat" and "Karinyo." Even the seemingly haphazard application of colors is really tempered.

Nuyda also employs the abstract expressionist's gestural technique, but he has found something that's patently his own. The strokes may look spontaneous, but here deliberate planning is an aspect, control an all-important component, of the art-making.

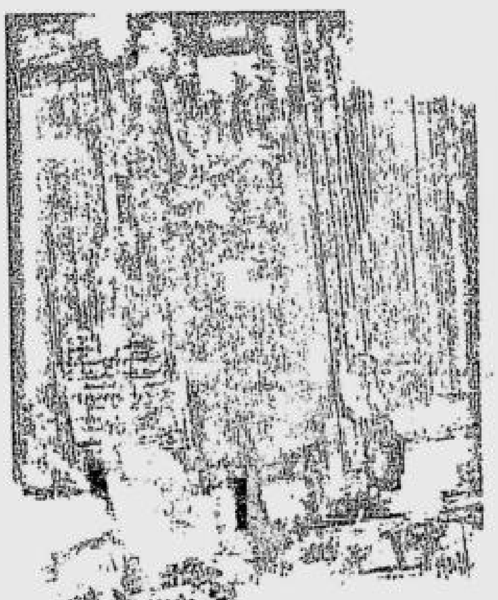
How else could one create the fan or parasol patterns in "No Beginning, No End"? The balletic undulation in "Movement in Elegant Symmetry"? Or the drifting clouds, mountains and bodies of water in "Land of Splendid Isolation"?

Though Nuyda's canvas is filled with swaying or dancing forms, his art looks placid, or induces serenity on the viewer. While Wilwayco's is busy and active, aburst with energy, speed, even heat.

In their artworks, the two complement or foil each other, verily like fire and ice. Pushing farther the metaphor, Nuyda would be a New Age guru to Wilwayco's Christian mystic.

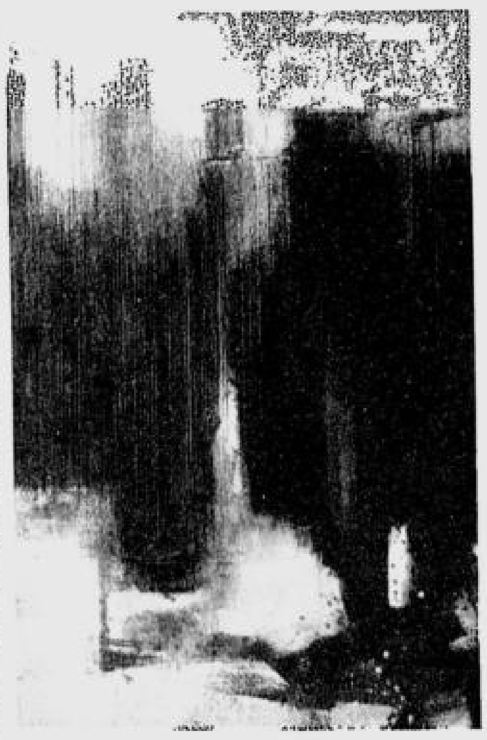


"RAPTURE of Rain" I



"SPIRIT of Rain" 2

Portrait of rain



"VOICES of Rain" 2

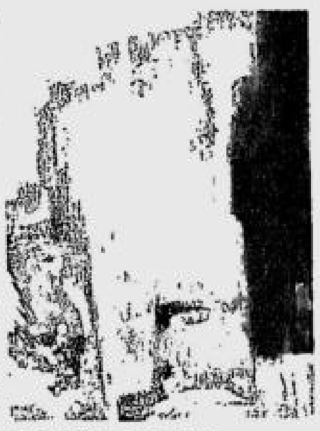
THE MANIFOLD manifestations of Nature are justly celebrated in all the arts. As the presence of the Creator is perceived to be dwelling in the natural world, the contemplation of it naturally gives one a spiritual uplift.

(Conversely, the civilized world—the world of the machine, the asphalt jungle, the landscape of concrete and towers of glass and steel—is thought to be the dwelling place of the Devil, a world of emptiness, a spiritual wasteland.)

Art, of course, is linked to the spirit, and the artist, ever the spiritual person, is naturally drawn to, or finds comfort in, the natural world, whether it is tempestuous or placid.

While other artists celebrate the obvious in the natural surroundings—trees and flowers, birds and butterflies, mountain ranges, bodies of water—abstractionist Cobie Cruz has chosen to spend his skill and concentration on capturing the rain.

Rain is seen as both an agent of destruction and a metaphor for grace. It is indiscriminate, it falls wherever it falls, in the countryside, in the city, on the heads of both the just and the unjust. As such, it is a perfect example of a force of Nature, indifferent to human fortunes and sentiments.



"ALTITUDE Rain" I

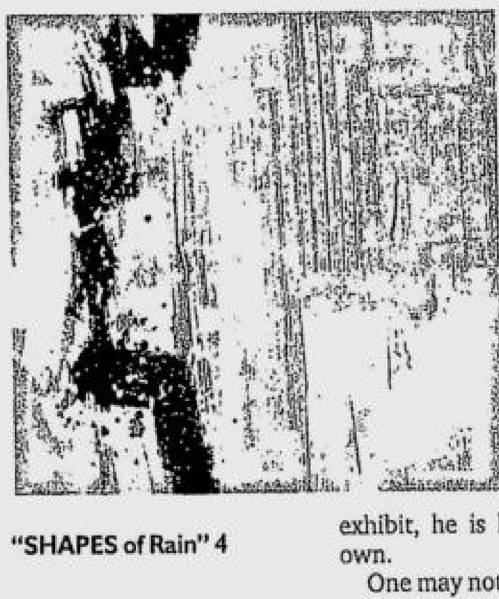
Artistic obsession

In a previous series, Cruz chronicled rainfall the whole year round, through the seasons, every month, thus, "April Rain," "June Rain," "December Rain."

Some artists have used the rain as incidental subject or taken it as inspiration, but none that we know of has painted it as extensively as Cruz is doing. In his art it has become almost like a motif, and his interest borders on fixation.

This artistic obsession reaches a higher level in Cruz's first solo exhibit "Precipitation," 31 pieces in acrylic on canvas and on paper, until July 30 in West Gallery at Mary Santos Artcade, 48 West Ave., Quezon City.

Here again each piece looks like a study in chromatics, using both warm and cool colors applied in broad vigorous strokes. With the bands of colors juxtaposed to contrast or complement, the vivid hues clash or blend.



"SHAPES of Rain" 4

Subtitled "Purple Series," the exhibit actually consists of numerous little series: "Rapture of Rain," "Behind the Rain," "Rain in the City," "Voices of Rain," "Altitude Rain," "Spirit of Rain," "Passing Rain," "Rain Delay," "A Different Rain," "Shapes of Rain."

Purple patches are ever present in the paintings, predominant in some ("Passing Rain" 3, "Behind the Rain" 1), near-monochrome in others ("Shapes of Rain" 1-6), and barely perceptible in a few ("Spirit of Rain" 1-3).

Spiritual experience

Cruz gets his effect by covering the canvas with modeling paste, scraping it downward with big paintbrushes with plastic bristles to create fine parallel ridges, then painting it over with acrylic. The result is a vividly hued and highly textured abstraction with those lines one automatically associates with a downpour.

By using similar colors and the same strokes in so many pieces, the artist looks as if he's just mastering this technique—until one perceives the subtleties in color tones, and sees the nuances in the brushstrokes, in the shifting of hues, in the changing sizes of the color bands.

Cruz says he has been inspired by the water imagery of American abstractionist Edward Betts. He counts among his influences Robert Motherwell and De Kooning.

A Fine Arts graduate, major in Advertising, from University of Santo Tomas, Cruz is finally stepping out of his father's shadow. (Cris Cruz of the Saturday Group is a figurative artist.) With this exhibit, he is hereby declaring he is on his own.

One may not find profundities here, just the artist glorying in colors, textures and forms. No dialectics or social statement, just the artist celebrating the elements, paying homage to Mother Nature.

That, of course, may be construed as something spiritual. This is not to mention the experience of viewing the artworks—a pleasure that's undeniably spiritual.

Constantino C. Tejero

Finally, a credit card for all things family – and all things school

It's that time of the year again. No, we're not talking about weddings here but school opening. It is no doubt something that parents are not exactly looking forward to --and with good reason. The very idea of figuring out ways to squeeze school expenses into tight financial resources is enough to drive anyone crazy. There are books, uniforms, notebooks, shoes (Doesn't the list seem endless?) to think about.

With tuition rising each year, stretching your peso can be quite a challenge. It does not help either that there's always a threat of price increases. So what are parents to do?

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Sheila Sarinas, Assistant Vice President of PSBank says, "PSBank MasterCard was designed with you and your family in mind. It helps you with your family-related expenses. It comes with the Family Health Helper that provides the qualified cardholder with a personal accident coverage bundled with a hospitalization cash benefit. To qualify, simply accumulate P5,000 worth of purchases. We are offering this new card feature because we care for every Filipino family. For us, family matters most."

While it offers standard credit card benefits, PSBank MasterCard also offers family-oriented extras. One of these is the Family Reward. It's ideal for bonding. It entitles you to free movie tickets when you use the PSBank MasterCard for the first time.

Need cash in a jiffy? No sweat. There's PSBank MasterCard's Family Ready Cash that gives you access to funds you can use for emergencies or any other need. It comes in handy and is certainly timely especially now that classes have opened By simply visiting the nearest PSBank or Metrobank branch and filling out the Ready Cash Availment form, cardholders can enjoy ready cash within an hour. The best part is that you can pay it back in easy installments.

Rolly Rodriguez, Executive Vice President for PSBank reveals, "Most of the credit cards in the market focus on personal and material satisfaction. We thought that it is high time that we offer a card that's more sensitive to the family's needs." As a dad himself, Tito Garcia, PSBank President, understands only too well the desire of parents to provide for all the needs of their children. He stresses, "We want to emphasize the importance of managing finances. This is not to say that wants always have to take a backseat to needs. But with PSBank MasterCard, you can now strike a balance between the two. See it as a credit card for all things family."

Fulfilling the needs of the family on a tight budget can be a struggle. But with a credit card like PSBank MasterCard around, you can count on getting all the help you can get in easing your financial concerns.

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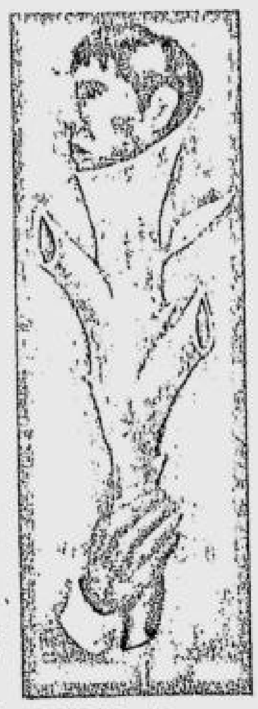
PAID ADVERTISEMENT

An art show in Sta. Cruz

By Gino Dormiendo
Contributor



"UNA Idea," by Karen Flores

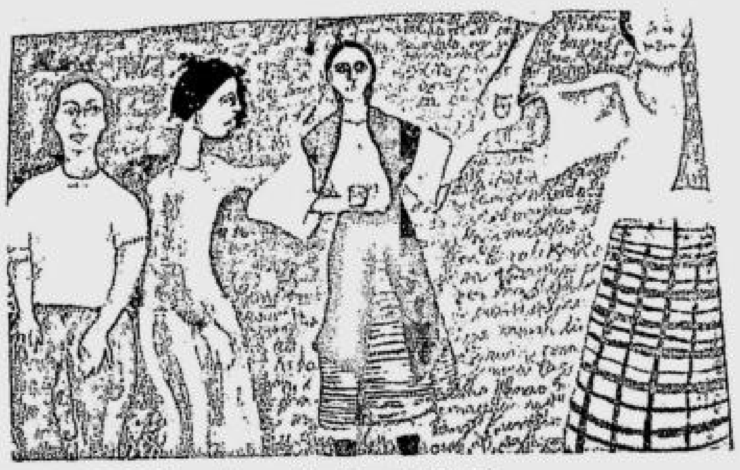
THOUGH a little far from Metro Manila, Nineveh Artspace in Villa Silangan in Sta. Cruz, Laguna, is an ideal venue for art exhibits.

The gallery owner, Louie Sevilla, who is his own curator, is a perfect host, an art lover whose taste runs along quite unconventional styles. The compound, which is also his home, has exhibit venues in the main building and the makeshift structure of bamboo and *sawali*.

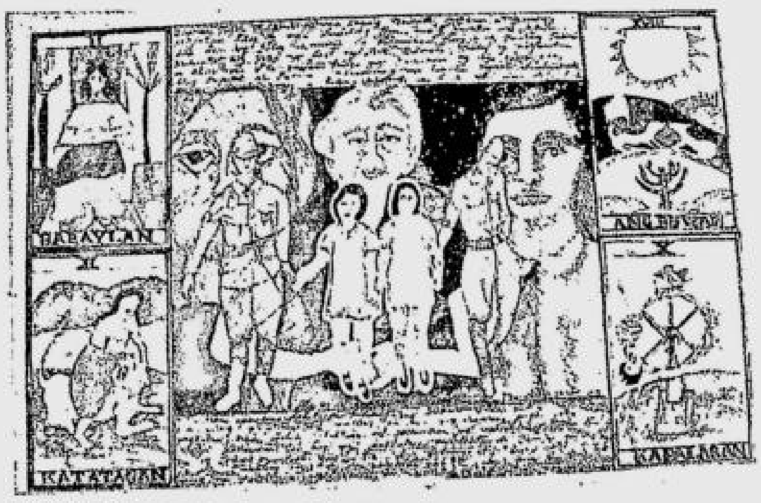
Nineveh's month-long exhibit this July features three leading Manila-based artists whose styles run along parallel styles of figuration.

Mario de Rivera, Brenda Fajardo and Karen Flores have long been known for the art they espouse, even more so for the images they have created, a virtual landscape of history, from the deeply personal to the symbolic and global. Each artist is duly accorded a separate space in the galleries, with Flores' works aptly mounted in the detached *sawali* enclosure.

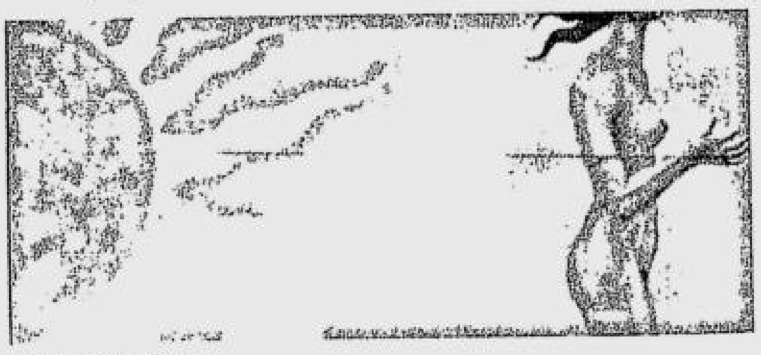
De Rivera's works in mixed media are elaboration of the artist's obsessive pursuit of identity, a recurring motif that lets him continually explore the confluence of history, religion, culture and the role of technology in art-making.



"PAG-ALAALA kay Nanay," by Brenda Fajardo



"SILA Ay Mga Bayani ng Bayan," by Fajardo



"ARAW," by Flores

Long known for his fine excess in using a wide variety of media and techniques, De Rivera plumbs the past as he regales with the tools of the machine age, creating a heady profusion of the sublime and the profane, the erotic and the divine.

In the eponymous "Piedras Fragantes," the photo-transfer image of the classical nude figure, as delineated by the European masters, interacts with the famous emblems of Eastern civilization, creating an admixture of East and West.

One has to look closer into the swirling movements of the modeling paste to see key details embedded, encrusted or even entombed.

Though the works in this show are relatively smaller and less complex than in previous shows, the effect is no less mesmerizing. To De Rivera's credit, his art continues to grow and mutate in never-ending fashion.

Recent drawings and paintings by Fajardo pretty much adhere to her previous image-making. Using the design of tarot cards to enclose important historical events, she enhances the main image with border designs and textual entries to complement specific themes.

In a particular work, "Sila Ay Mga Bayani ng Bayan," in ink and tempera on paper, Fajardo has images of young women held captive by the Japanese forces in the Pacific War, including famous comfort women in the background. Framing them are four famous icons representing the seasons, the horoscope, time-honored virtues and the pre-Hispanic *babaylan*.

In another work, "Pag-alaala kay Nanay," Fajardo pays tribute to her ancestors, sharply delineated in various poses and activities of their time, moving across the pages of history, and with helpful annotations from handwritten notes as those in a diary.

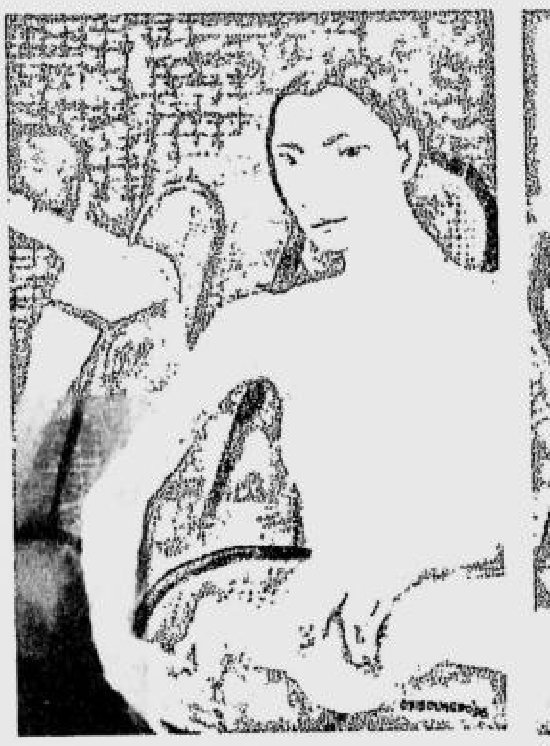
Fajardo's fascination with the female figure is evident in this show, a treasure trove of feminist emblems uprooted from the wellspring of history and revalidated by the stirrings of postmodern imagination.

Flores' 12 works take up the space in a *sawali* enclosure in Nineveh. Titled "Lugar Ko," the show depicts the house as representing the self, and underscores all its attendant significations—place, position, direction, destiny.

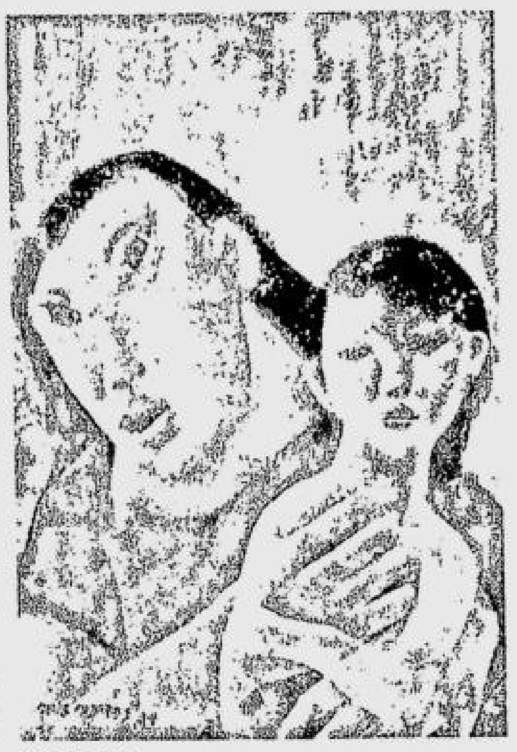
Flores powerfully captures the various faces and phases of womanhood, her character evolving from myth to selfhood, a process enhanced and wisely envisioned by the surrounding forces of nature and corresponding acts of divination. Her female figure, solitary or in pairs as in diptych, is often in ceremonial poses, a transcendental being perpetually grappling with forces around her and within herself.

Flores painted directly on old, recycled wood, the images appearing enclosed by its dents for a frame-within-a-frame configuration. The works powerfully convey a subtle feminist subtext, which, in Flores' gender-sensitive imagination, is an eloquent plea for all humanity, for harmony and equality in the world.

E-mail author at gdormiendo@yahoo.com



"BALLERINA at Rest"



"HORSE"

Exhibit pays tribute to Olmedo

EIGHT major Onib Olmedo paintings, which have never been exhibited before, are the centerpiece of "Onib Olmedo, A Tribute," which pays homage to the Philippines' foremost figurative expressionist painter. The exhibit is at Galerie Joaquin in San Juan.

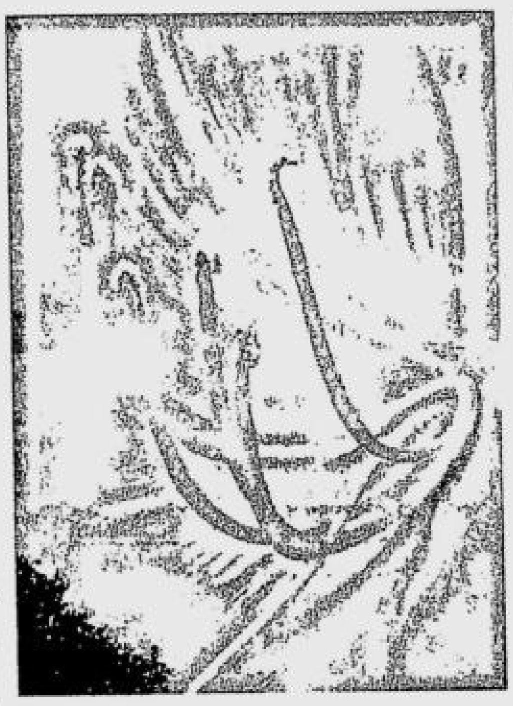
Paying tribute to Olmedo are artworks by Lydia Velasco, Mark Justiniani, Marcel Antonio, Emmanuel Garibay, Gino Tioseco, Vincent de Pio, Bayani Ray Acala, Jason Moss, Elmer Roslin, Vincent Paul Padilla, Sandra Gfeller, Riel Hilario, Jerson Samson and Joey Ibay.

Galerie Joaquin is at 371 P. Guevarra St. and Montessori Lane, Addition Hills, San Juan, Metro Manila.

Olmedo held his first one-man show at the Solidaridad Galeries in 1971. He was twice a gold medalist of the Art Association of the Philippines competitions (1979 and 1981); a gold medalist of the 1980 Mobil Art Awards (Olazo, Ang Kiukok and Danny Dalena were the other gold medalists).

He was a CCP 13 Artists awardee in 1992 and Araw ng Maynila art awardee in 1991. He represented the Philippines in several prestigious international competitions in Cagnes Sur-Mer, France, first in 1979 and again in 1988, when he bagged the honorable mention medal.

The show runs until Aug. 9. Call 7239253 and 7239418. E-mail galerie_joaquin@yahoo.com or visit www.galeriejoaquin.com



"RESPLENDENT in His Glory," by Lucy Vergara-Fernando

"DUTCH Beauty (Orange)," by Ivi Avellana-Cosio

VISUAL ARTS

International art show at GSIS Museum; Ticar at Mag:net; Fernando at Ayala

THE KOREA Fine Artists Organization and the Art Association of the Philippines will hold the International Art Exhibition-Manila Festival on July 27-Aug. 13, at the GSIS Museum. Aside from Korea and the Philippines, there are participating artists from France, Mongolia, Japan, Malaysia, Uzbekistan, Taiwan, Singapore, Germany and China. AAP president Fidel Sarmiento will open the exhibit.

MAG:NET Gallery ABS presents Jay Ticar's "Pressure Points" on July 26-Aug. 13, at The Loop, ELJ Center, ABS-CBN compound, Mother Ignacia Ave. and Eugenio Lopez St., QC. The artist elucidates on the idea of pressure as process, as image and as subject of painting. Call 4100995.

THE AYALA Museum features Lucy Vergara-Fernando's "Glimpses of His Glory" until Aug. 4 in MuseumSpace, 2/F, Glass Wing Tower, Greenbelt 4, Makati. The paintings reflect the artist's sense of awe and wonder at God's incredible creativity. Call 6343261 or 6336687.

GALERIE ASTRA features "20/20" on July 27-Aug. 4, at 2/F, LRI Business Plaza, 210 Nicanor Garcia St., Makati. Participating artists are Hermes Alegre, Pandy Aviado, Allan Cosio, Cobie Cruz, Dyun Cunanan, Raphael Cusi, Crist Espiritu, Egai Fernandez, Joey Ibay, Jethro Jocson, Rico Lascano, Red Mansueto, Poch Naval, Bob Nuestro, Archie Perez, Dante Perez, Raul Piedra, Cid Reyes, José Tence Ruiz and Carlo Saavedra. Call 8903988, 7243032 or 7269015.

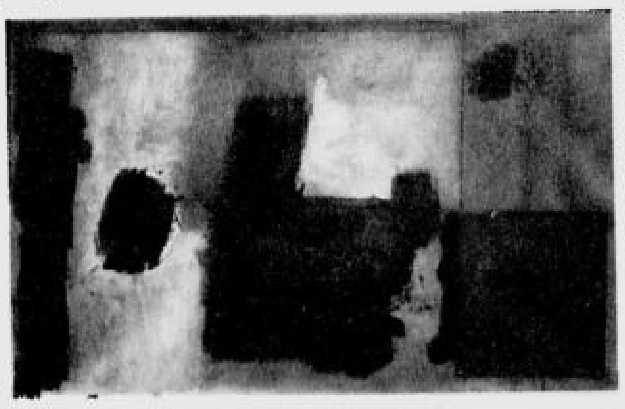
JAY ALONZO will have a photography exhibit on July 29-Aug. 15, at 5/L, of Walter Mart-Arnaiz, Makati. Titled "Multiple Exposures: An Exhibit by Jay Alonzo and the HTPhoto Club," the exhibit features glamour, still life and travel photographs.

THE ART Discovery and Learning Foundation Inc. holds its group exhibit until July 28, at the Triumph Building, Quezon Avenue, QC. Participating artists are Marilyn Aquino, Sylvia Buensuceso, Dr. Lorenza Calpotura, Sebio Dy, Minda Santillan, Carmen Uy, Jojo Calubaquib, Myra Ruth Picart, Jun Tuplano, Lea Consulta, Marcelo Baldomar, Letti Rellera, Gaudencio Romion, Dr. Judith Briones, Mildred Varela, Lita Maderazo, Diana Delmo, Judy Lim, Jenny Yao, Beth Concepcion, Angie Salanio, Lilian Chua Joy, Erzil Kho, Esther Garcia, Donna May Pascual, Dr. Menchit Tongco and Gigi Lim.

THE SINING, Kulay at Tinta holds a group exhibit until July 30, at Food and Art Galerie, 12/F, GT Tower, Ayala Ave. cor. H.B. dela Costa St., Makati. Participating artists include Rene, Belison, Ted Camahalan, Crisan, Eunice de Asis-de Guzman, Manny de Guzman Jr., Freddie Dumaquita, Lyndon Garrovillas, Joel Janer, Danny Javier, Nene Laporga, Pol Mesina Jr., Clarisa Navidad, Aed Solis, Carl Vien Tibang, Tina Tibang and Norberto Villez.

FINALE Art Gallery presents Patricia Eustaquio's "Goodbye Cruel World" until Aug. 2, at The Artwalk, 4/L, Megamall A. The artist combines conceptual devices and intellectual inferences in her paintings and sculptures. Call 6342410 or 6342411.

IVI Avellana-Cosio holds her exhibit "Tableaux/Photos" until Aug. 9 at Le Soufflé Rockwell, Amorsolo Square, Amorsolo Drive, Rockwell Center, Makati City. Her works in oil pastel on paper and acrylic on canvas celebrate the world of flowers. The images, ranging from flowers to fruits and vegetables, are presented as seen through the lens without any digital manipulation. Call 8906543 or 8907630.



"TADPOLE to Frog II," by Roberto Robles

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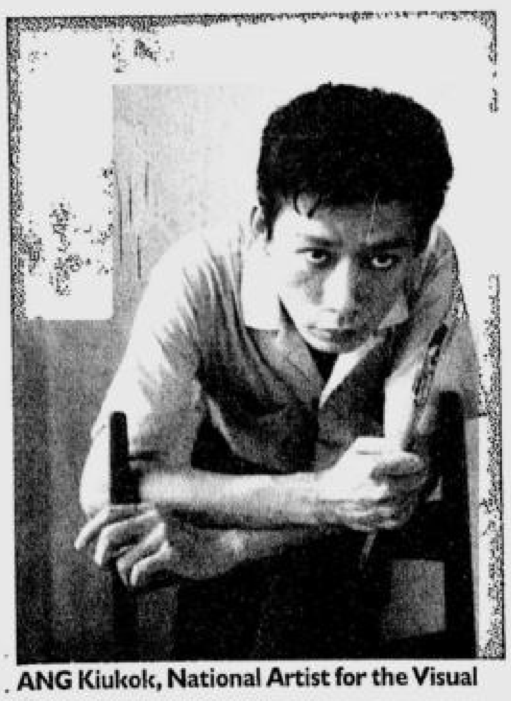
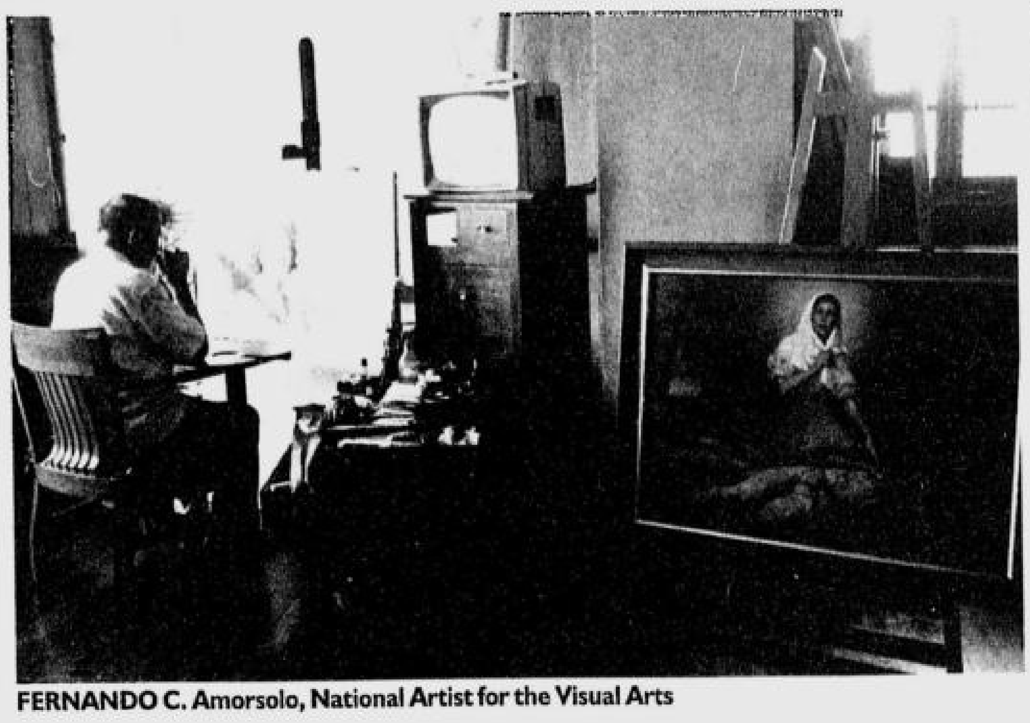


ANG Kiukok, National Artist for the Visual Arts



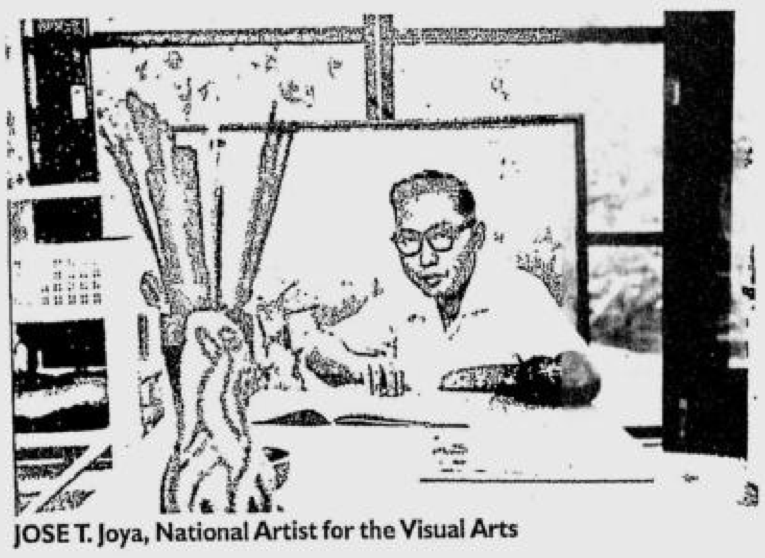
FERNANDO C. Amorsolo, National Artist for the Visual Arts

GERARDO "Gerry" de Leon, National Artist for Cinema

NAPOLEON Abueva, National Artist for the Visual Arts

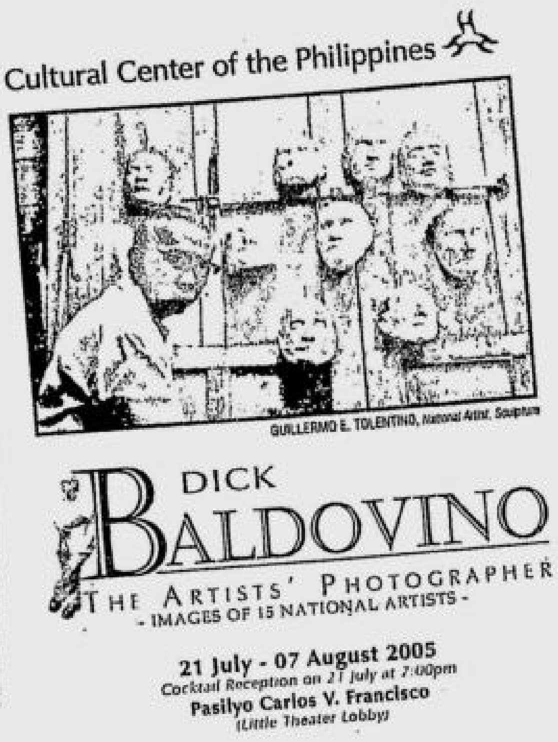
FRANCISCA Reyes Aquino, National Artist for Dance

JUAN F. Nakpil, National Artist for Architecture



JOSE T. Joya, National Artist for the Visual Arts

'Faces' of Philippine art



Cultural Center of the Philippines

GUILLERMO E. TOLENTINO, National Artist, Sculpture

DICK BALDOVINO
THE ARTISTS' PHOTOGRAPHER
- IMAGES OF 15 NATIONAL ARTISTS -

21 July - 07 August 2005
Cocktail Reception on 21 July at 7:00pm
Pasilyo Carlos V. Francisco
(Little Theater Lobby)

ACE PHOTOGRAPHER Dick Baldovino presents his photographs of 15 of the country's National Artists in an ongoing exhibit at Pasilyo Carlos V.. Francisco (Little Theater lobby) of the Cultural Center of the Philippines.

"The Artists' Photographer—Images of 15 National Artists" is a documentation of the lives and work of a generation of Filipino artists who helped define the standard of Philippine creative culture and vision.

Many of the featured National Artists, representing from the visual arts to cinema, literature and architecture, were photographed at the dawn of their productive years, before they and their audiences realized the impact they would have on the nation's cultural and artistic traditions.

The title of National Artist was conferred only starting 1972. Among those featured in Baldovino's exhibit are Botong Francisco, Guillermo Tolentino, Ang Kiukok and Carlos P. Romulo.

The exhibit, which ends August 7, was conceived as a birthday tribute to the photographer.

Buffer zones needed . . .

From page D1

ing a building is of primary concern.

Setting is important

The space around a building provides the void from which the solid shape takes its context. Without it, one cannot perceive the full impact of the building. Therefore, in the design of a building, setting is an important consideration. The open space around the structure is part of the architecture.

Designers carefully study proper placing of buildings on sites to provide maximum visual impact and to satisfy environmental conditions.

Colonial churches are great examples of architectural impact. Designed as the main focus of each town plaza, they were the most imposing structures in towns, huge and towering symbols of religious power and might.

The strong visual impact of Taal Basilica situated atop a hill rising above the town plaza is an unforgettable, if not humbling, sight for believer and nonbeliever alike.

Impact is what Balayan Church lost by allowing the construction of a fastfood store between the church and town plaza. A subliminal image is what Balayan has gained by placing a fastfood store in its front yard. Figure out what a statement that makes. (Faith as fastfood? The church as commerce?)

To preserve impact and protect heritage structures, an open-space buffer zone is drawn around a monument to ensure that no new construction blocks its view.

To be more practical, the buffer zone also protects the structure from construction encroachment, keeps vehicles and emissions at a safe distance, safeguards the structure from damaging construction vibrations, and provides protection from other unforeseen damaging elements.

The Balayan and Taal examples show widespread ignorance on the function of a buffer zone.

So many new constructions that endanger heritage properties go unnoticed and unchallenged, proof that the government and the public see heritage as as a disposable commodity in the race toward "development."

Obviously, having laws that protect heritage is not enough. To effectively protect heritage, everyone must become more aware of the need to do so.

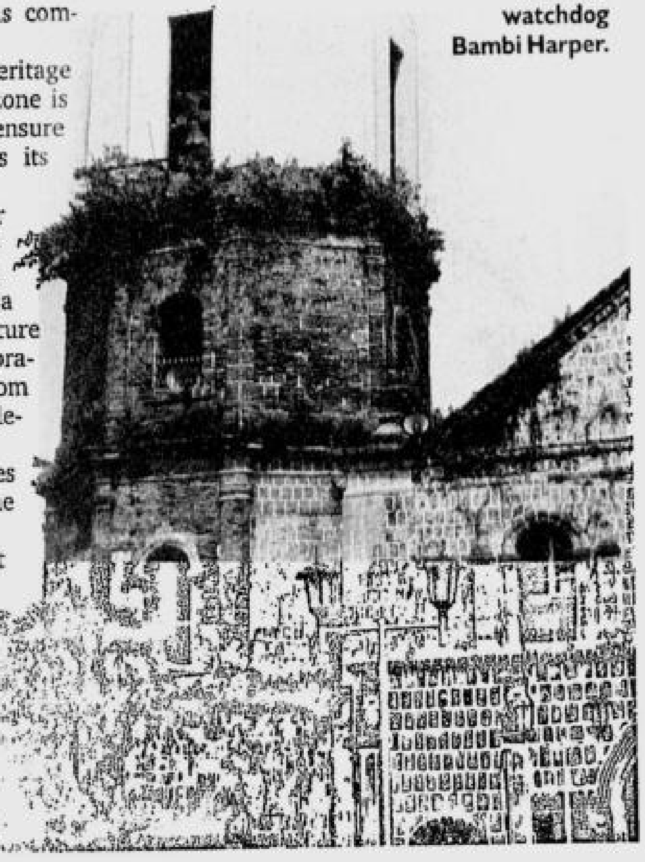
More concerned individuals should become heritage vigilantes.

Heritage watch

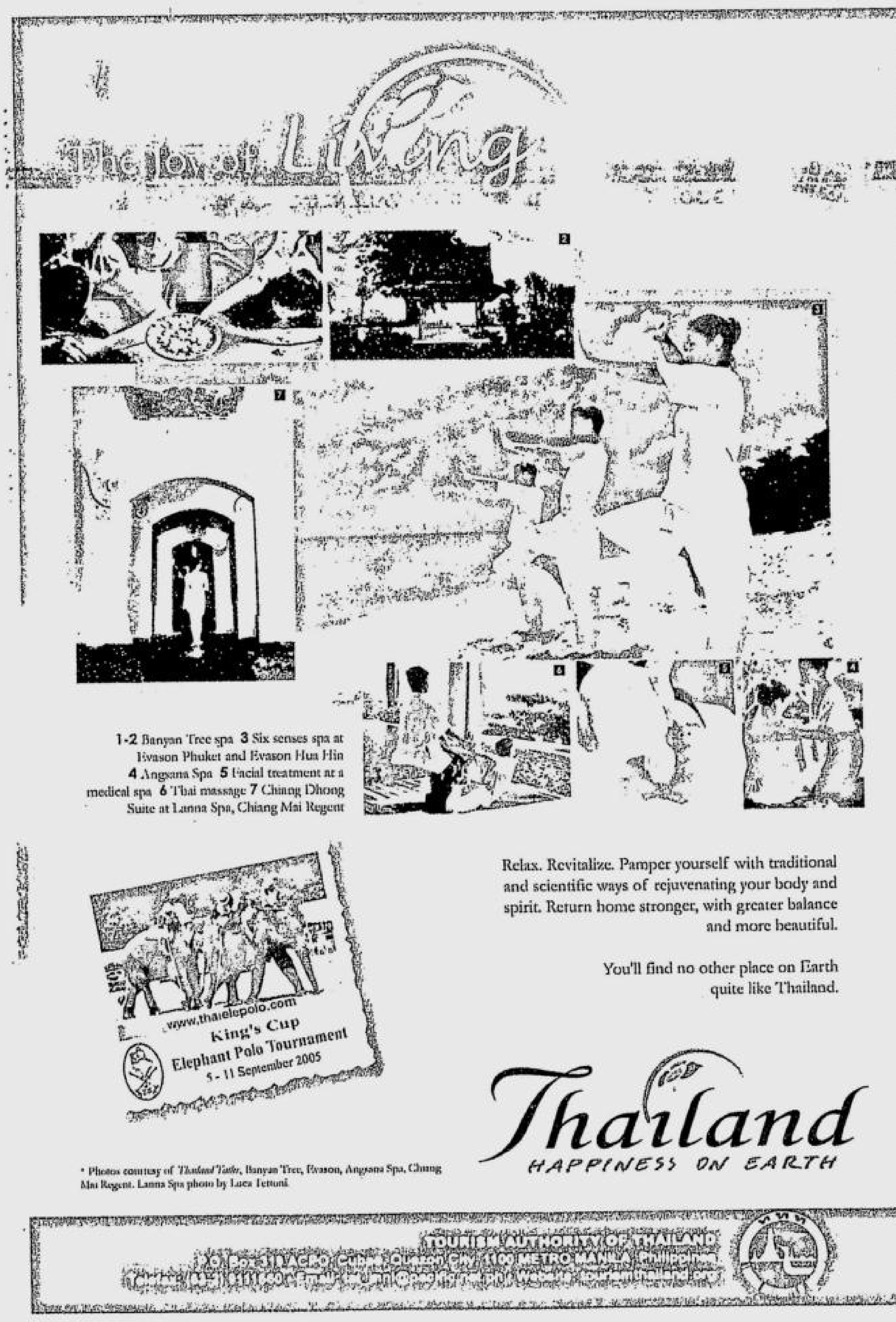
It was recently reported that the centuries-old acacia trees lining long portions of the brick causeway connecting Santa Maria Church to its round cemetery had been felled by town officials.

Intrinsic, identifying elements in the Santa Maria landscape are now gone. Despite the fact that the Ilocos Sur site enjoys international Unesco protection because of its inscription on the World Heritage List, is anyone in charge of maintaining Santa Maria heritage, which includes its trees?

Feedback is welcome at afvillalon@hotmail.com.



"BARA-BARA" renovation. The reconstructed bell tower of Balayan Church looks like a "condom," according to heritage watchdog Bambi Harper.



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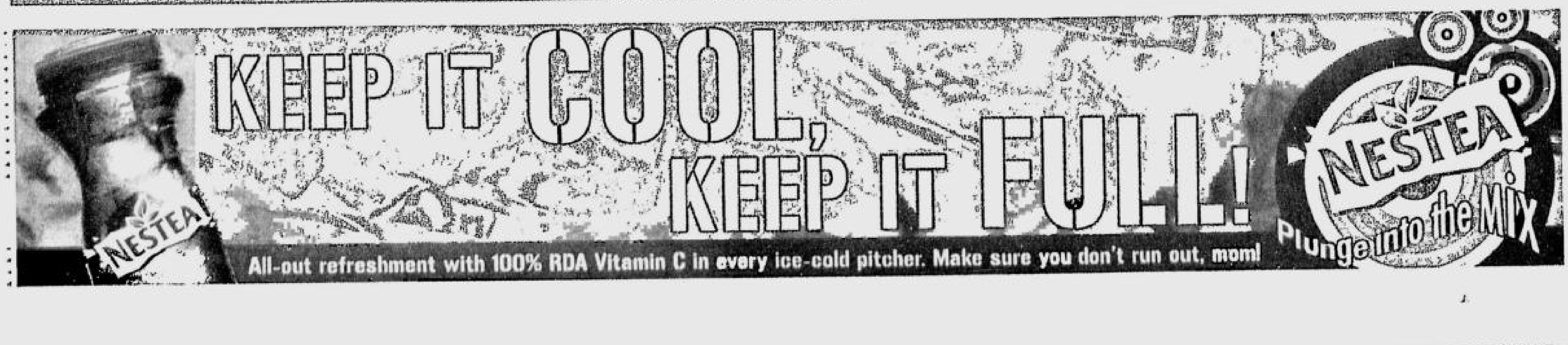

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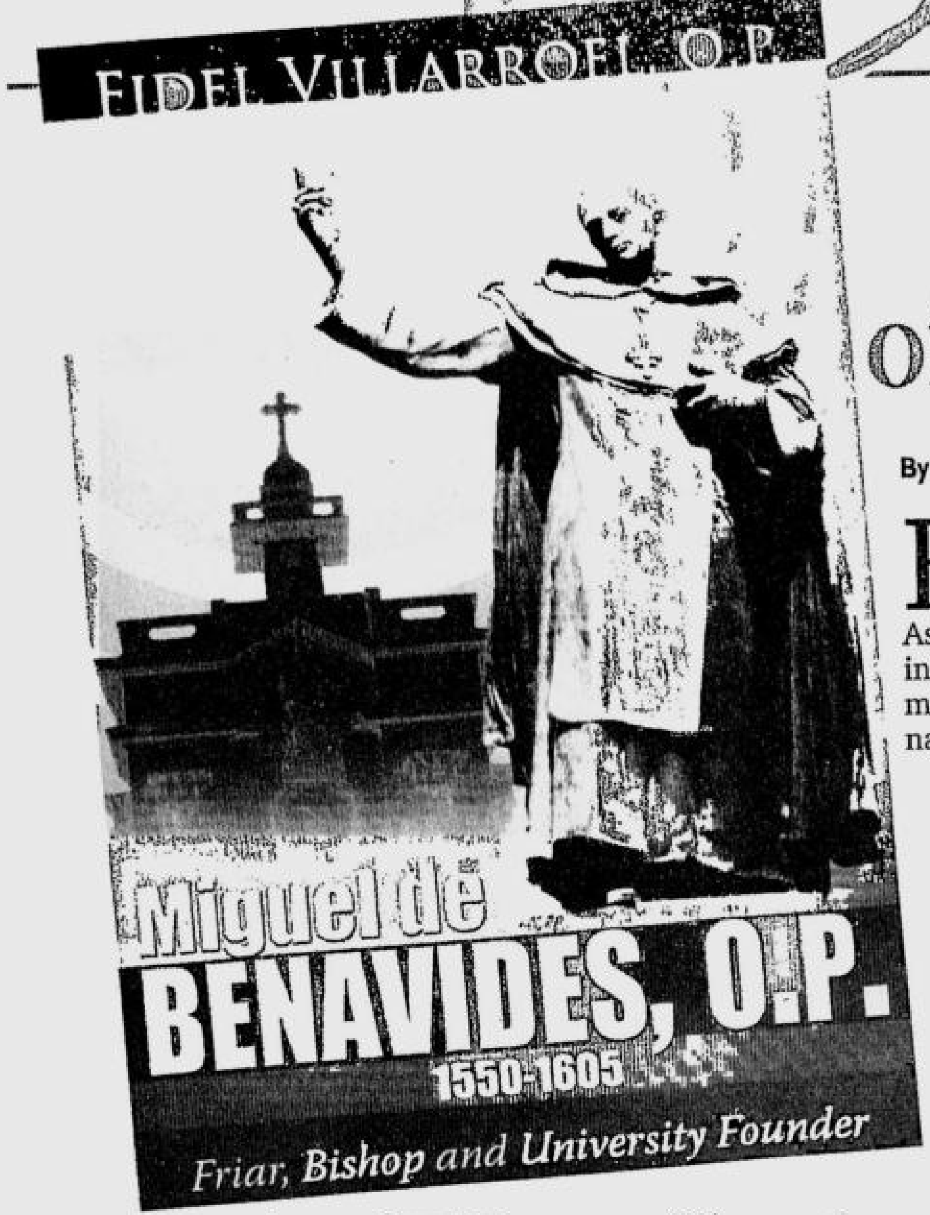
FIDEL VILLARROEL O.P.
Miguel de BENAVIDES, O.P.
1550-1605
Friar, Bishop and University Founder

The enduring legacy of Fray Miguel de Benavides

The founder of UST was a 'liberation theologian' who opposed the conquest and forced Spain to hold the only plebiscite in colonial history

By Lito B. Zulueta

EXCEPT for a nondescript street in Binondo, Manila, and a short strip near the Asian Institute of Management in Makati, there's no national memorial to Fray Miguel de Benavides, the first bishop of Nueva Segovia (Northern Luzon) and the third bishop of Manila who is widely acknowledged as the founder of the University of Santo Tomas, the oldest university in Asia. His statue of course dominates Plaza Benavides, the serene park in front of the earthquake-proof UST Main Building in España, Manila. Made in Europe in the 19th century, the statue shows him in the act of preaching (he was a member of the Order of Preachers, or the Dominicans), with his right hand pointing upward as if to illustrate a theological point, and

THE ENDURING/E2

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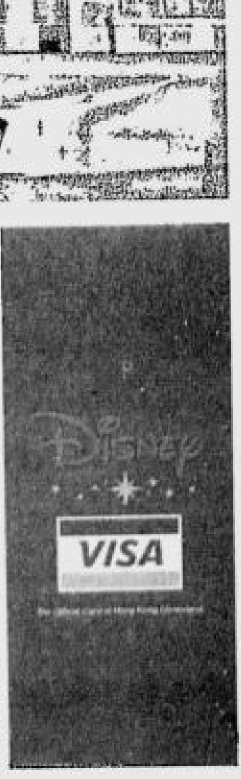
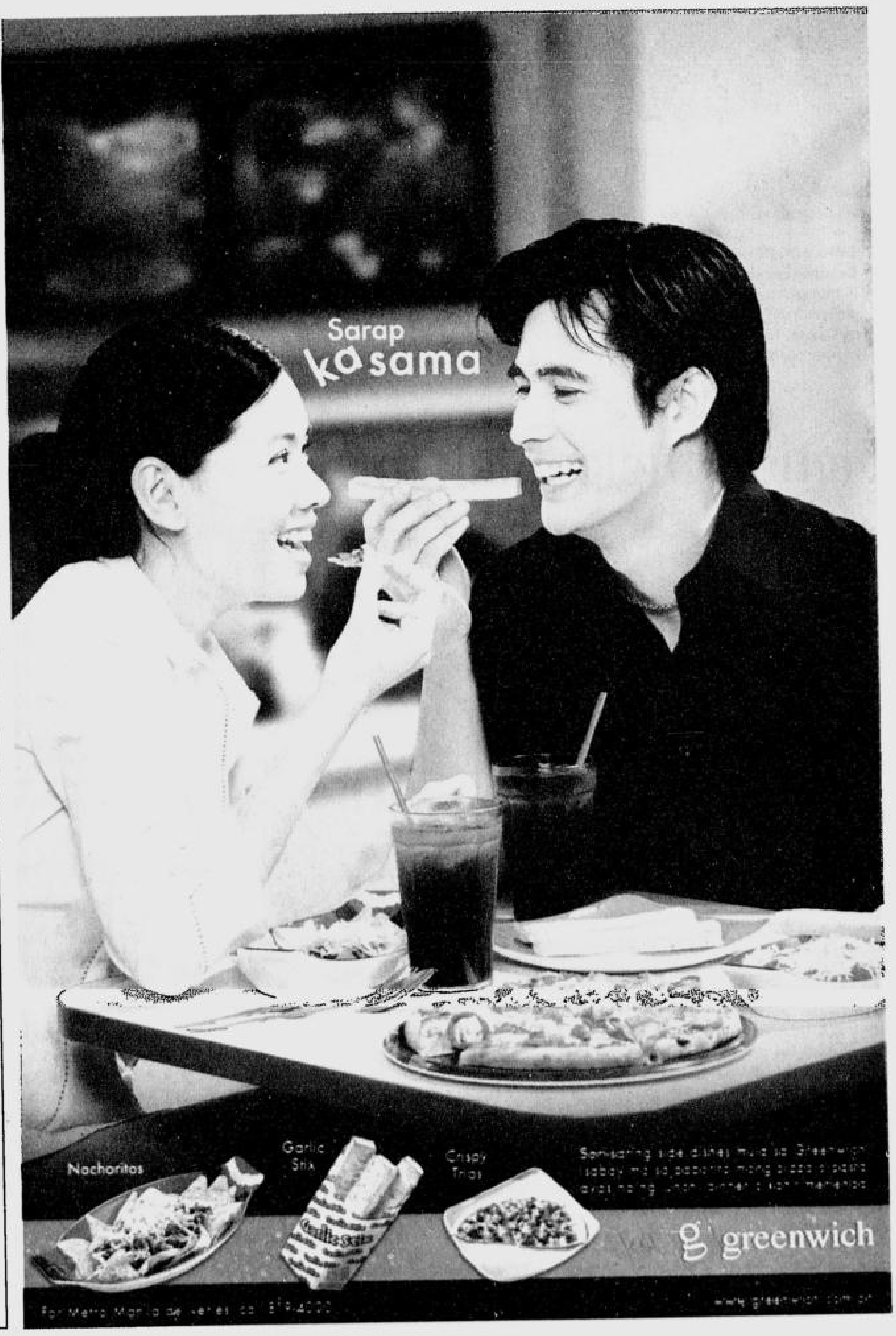
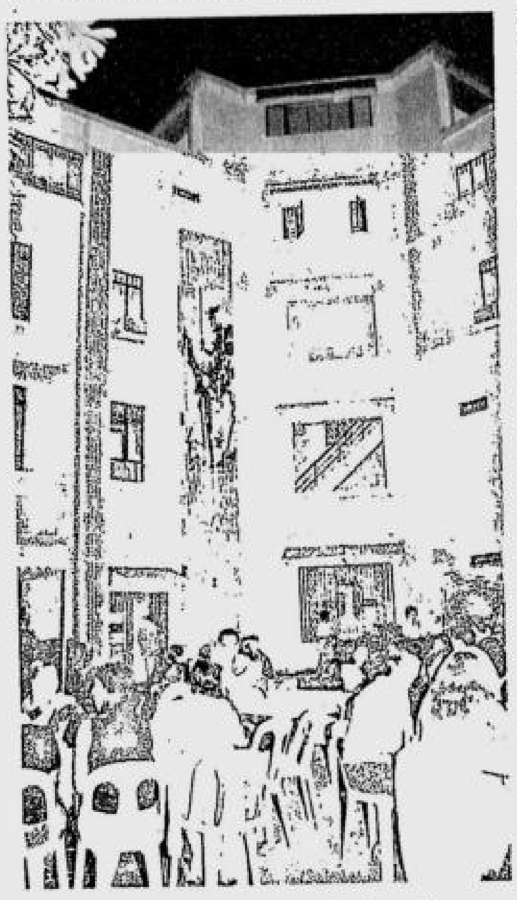




The enduring legacy of Miguel de Cervantes

AFTER 400 years, "El Ingenioso Hidalgo Don Quixote de la Mancha" by Miguel de Cervantes remains the novel against which all novels have to be measured and benchmarked. For most novels, that's a tall order since world critical consensus remains that "Don Quixote" is the first and the last of its kind—the most sublime modern novel of all time, barring none. All novelists attempting to outdo it are merely chasing windmills.



NONSTOP reading of "Don Quixote" at Instituto Cervantes on April 22-24

In the Philippines, writers have to contend with the pride of Spanish letters without meaning to. Or even without being aware of it. As the ongoing series of lectures sponsored by Instituto Cervantes shows, local writers breathe the air of Cervantes's anti-chivalric tale without meaning to. "It is the strangest thing," said Vicente Groyon, author of the Palanca-winning "The Sky over Dimas," also a novel of madness. "A gaunt, ramshackle knight on a scrawny nag, attended by a little round man on an ass. The image was clear, indelible, and I had yet to read a single page of this work."

Postmodern

Since Groyon is an academic at De La Salle University, he couldn't resist commenting "How modern this hoary work really is": "All the narrative tricks and sleight-of-hand that made critical darlings of writers such as Borges, Pynchon, Fowles, Barthelme and a slew of others working in a style conveniently labeled 'postmodern' are exposed as frauds, copycats all, when placed beside the 'Quixote.' All the traits of postmodern writing—the infinitely nested narratives, unreliable narrators, imitations of other written artifacts, self-conscious narration, blurring of lines between illusion and reality, parody, pastiche, collage and fragmentation—all are seen, suddenly, startlingly, as emanating from Cervantes."

Beyond writerly preoccupations, the question, of course, is the special relevance of "Quixote" to Filipinos. Groyon took off from the anthem of Ninoy Aquino, "Impossible Dream," the most popular song in the Broadway musical "Man of La Mancha," based on Cervantes' work. "Our history seems always defined by struggle—political, economic—that never ends. The Impossible Dream will always be there, always just beyond our reach."

And what about the Don's madness? It is a madness that alters and eventually recreates the earth, Groyon seemed to say. Adapting the Arthurian romances in Spain, "a reality that never existed in Spain," Groyon said, Quixote proclaims himself a knight errant and everyone around him a world of chivalry. "Don Quixote reveals himself to be as much of a fictionist as Cervantes, writing a world into being with the sheer power of his imagination and words."

But with the power of his madness, Quixote recasts the world, making it new. "While he encounters setbacks along the way... he eventually begins to win over the real Spain that he encounters on his sallies, and they begin to believe in his fantasy to the point of participating in it... "

Thus, in pursuing a myth, the mad Don actually realizes it, makes it come alive. "After 400 years, the adventures of Don Quixote have become as mythical as the romances that inspired them," Groyon said. "Fiction begets fiction and, given enough time, reality becomes fiction as well."

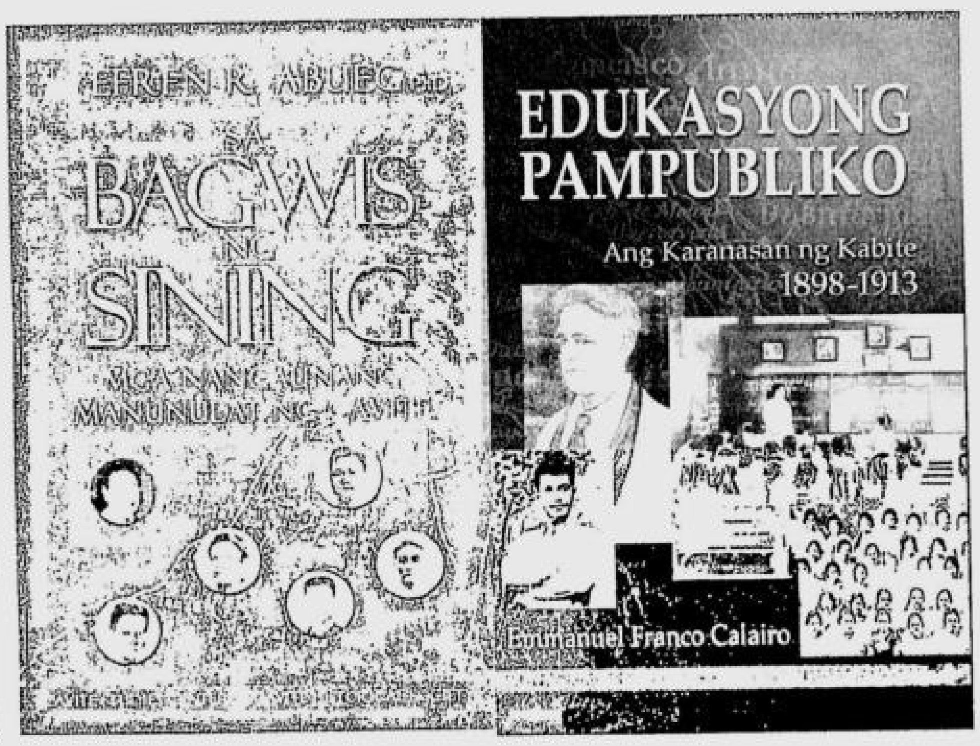
Lito B. Zulueta

The Instituto Cervantes's lecture series on the fourth centenary of "Don Quixote" rounds off with National Artist F. Sionil Jose's talk, "A Filipino Writer's Quixotic Adventure," on Aug. 25 at 6 p.m. at Central Library Hall of the University of Santo Tomas. On Aug. 2, Instituto, Spanish Embassy and UST will open an exhibit of extant editions of "Don Quixote" in the collection of the UST Central Library, the oldest being a 1780 Madrid edition. Also opening on that date is the traveling exhibit, "Don Quixote: 400 Years Around the World." There will also be showings of various film adaptations of the novel starting Aug. 1 at the library's audio-visual room. Call 5261482 to 85. E-mail icmanila@cervantes.net.ph or visit http://manila.cervantes.es

After 400 years, 'Don Quixote' remains a maddeningly compulsive tale of how madness can reinvent reality

FICTIONIST-TEACHER Vicente Groyon lectures at Instituto Cervantes. Behind him is the famous drawing of Don Quixote and Sancho Panza by Picasso

INSTITUTO Cervantes director Javier Galvan



TWO BOOKS on local studies from Cavite Studies Center of De La Salle University-Dasmariñas were launched recently. "Sa Bagwis ng Sining: Mga Nangaunang Manunulat ng Cavite," by Efren R. Abueg, is a research work on Cavite creative writers from the Revolution up to World War II. " Edukasyong Pampubliko: Karanasan ng Cavite, 1898-1913," by center director Emmanuel Calairo, studies the impact of American education in the Philippines with focus on Cavite.

Fiction flicks pick for July

POWERBOOKS Specialty Store's monthly Fiction Flicks promo features Meg Cabot this July.

Hailing from Bloomington, Indiana, this best-selling author's writing career got off to a rough start. After several years of rejection, she was finally able to sell her first book, a historical romance novel under a pen name she would rather not disclose.

Things have gone well for her since then, having written over thirty novels to date including "The Mediator," "1-800-WHERE-R-YOU," "All-American Girl," "Nicola and the Viscount" and "Victoria and the Rogue."

Perhaps her most well known work to date is "The Princess Diaries" series, the first of which introduces the unlikely heroine Mia Thermopolis, an average urban ninth grader who discovers that her father is actually the prince of a small European country. And, of course, Mia, being his only heir, is now considered the crown princess of Genovia.

Meg's funny and entertaining writing, constant pop culture references and offbeat characters have won the hearts of teenage girls around the world. Film rights to "The Princess Diaries" were sold to Disney, and a film based on the book was released in August 2001. A sequel to the film, based on an original story written by Disney, was released in summer 2004.

PowerBooks is now giving readers the chance to share more of Meg's and her characters' adventures by throwing in loads of special treats.

The first 50 customers who buy any Meg Cabot book published by Harper Collins gets two tickets to a special screening of "The Princess Diaries" on Aug. 3, 7 p.m., at MyCinema, Greenbelt 3. The first 20 attendees get a popcorn bucket, a softdrink, a Timezone gate pass, and a parking stub, all for free. Aside from this, a lucky customer can get to bring home a Meg Cabot book set.

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PowerBooks Specialty Store is a full-service specialty bookstore with branches at Greenbelt 4 (tel. 7576428/29), Megamall (6352898 to 99), Alabang (8505662 to 63), and Glorietta (7527075).

The enduring legacy of Fray Miguel de Benavides

From page E1

his left hand holding the Bible. Although wearing the bishop's pectoral cross, he is donned in the Dominican habit rather than a bishop's regalia. The statue used to stand at Plaza Santo Tomas in Intramuros before the Dominicans had the prescience to relocate it to the new UST campus across Pasig River before the bombs of Second World War brought to dust the glory of Old Manila. A replica of the statue now stands in the restored Plaza Santo Tomas.

On the lobby of the UST Main Building is a mural by Antonio Llamas that shows Archbishop Benavides showing to his Dominican brothers, Fray Domingo de Nieva and Fray Bernardo de Santa Catalina, the deed of donation which bequeathed P1,500 and his library to the establishment of a school that later became UST. The donation was made before he died on July 26, 1605. Soon enough, more donors came forward and the school became a reality in 1611.

Tomorrow, the fourth centenary of Benavides's death will be marked with several ceremonies in Intramuros and UST. Fittingly enough, UST is making the occasion a soft launching for its own quadricentennial in 2011. With the celebrations, founder and institution are so melded as to become indistinguishable from one another, like form and matter.

Superman

But as the Spanish Dominican historian Fr. Fidel Villarroel shows in his slim but packed biography, "Miguel de Benavides, O.P. (1550-1605): Friar, Bishop and University Founder" (2005, UST Publishing House, tel. 7313522), Benavides was more than a school founder. A member of the original Dominican batch that arrived in the islands in 1587, he was also a tireless missionary who helped evangelize Bataan and Northern Luzon, practically building settlements and cities there single-handedly; a theologian and thinker of no mean ability, clashing in Europe with the Jesuits of the Molinist School in the 16th century debate on grace and its influence on man's good works; a builder who lay the foundations of the Manila Cathedral and helped build the San Gabriel Hospital in Binondo which ministered to the Sangleys in the parian and became renowned in Asia for the quality and humanity of its services; an itinerant preacher who traveled three continents (Europe, South America and Asia) so much so that it could be said he, according to Villarroel, traveled "around half the world in twelve months;" a linguist who quickly learned Chinese, helped write a catechism in Chinese which became one of the first three books, along with the famous "Doctrina Cristiana," to be published in the Philippines in 1593; and a missionary-diplomat who tried to evangelize China. That he was able to do all of this in such a short life span of 55 years should qualify him in the roster of supermen.

Eye-opener

A companion article to Villarroel's enlightening book is Fr. Pedro Tejero's "Miguel de Benavides, O.P.," published in the latest issue of Unitas, the UST academic journal of the humanities. The article focuses on the role of Benavides in the establishment of the Holy Rosary Province of the Dominican order. The province remains one of the biggest in the order, with missions spanning Europe, the Philippines, Asia and South America.

But it is Villarroel's work that provides an eye-opener not only on the life of Benavides, but also on the history of the Philippines and the world. In 1591, Domingo Salazar, the first bishop of Manila and a disciple of Bartolome de las Casas, the "apostle of the Indies" who had denounced the abuses of the *conquistadores* against the Indians in the Americas, wrote the king of Spain, criticizing the *encomienda* system and the taxes forced on the natives, arguing that Spain had no right to do so. Since Salazar was practically alone in his denunciation after failing to get the support of the other religious orders, he decided to go to Spain and argue his case with the king himself. He took along his Dominican confrere, Benavides.

Orthodoxy and praxis

Salazar died in 1594, crushed that Spain had continued to impose levies on the natives. Benavides pressed on with the fight, issuing the controversial *memoriales* that forcefully argued against Spain's conquest of the islands. The episode showed Benavides's scholastic ties with the philosophy of Francisco Vittoria, the Dominican thinker generally acknowledged to be the father of international law. While Vittoria held a chair in metaphysics in Salamanca in the previous century, he used his awesome theological and philosophical knowledge of Thomism in order to answer moral, political and juridical questions. What Vittoria did was "orthopraxis" even before the term became the vogue in the late 20th century.

But it was left to De las Casas, Salazar and Benavides to apply Vittoria's teachings in the blood-and-sweat questions of conquest and evangelization. They were, in fact, the original liberation theologians. Benavides for his part was able to stir enough the Madrid establishment as to compel King Philip II to order a council to investigate the charges of abuses. Nearing death in 1596, the king later issued a royal cedula, directing the governor of the Philippines to stop the abuses and for all colonial policies and programs to be "directed toward the good and contentment of the Indians, and their best condition, preservation and civilization."

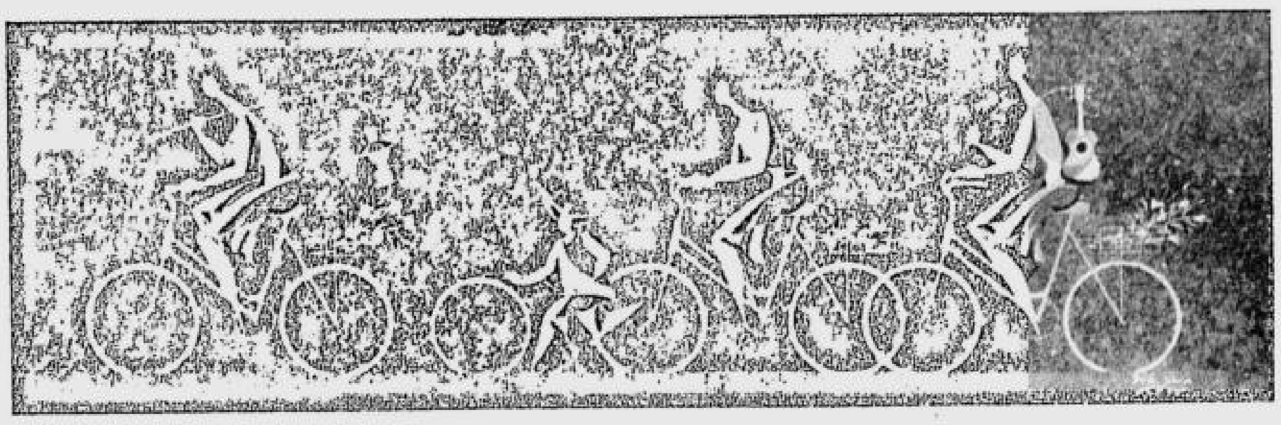
Referendum

At the behest of Benavides, Philip remedied the question of Spain's right of conquest by ordering the governor to confer with the religious orders how best the tributes could be "conveniently returned" and "restore(d) by love all that which have been done through force and fear," and most important, suggesting that the natives be given the chance "to freely render me submission."

In 1597, Benavides, now the bishop of Nueva Segovia, presided over a plebiscite in which Christian and non-Christian Filipinos professed their allegiance to the King of Spain. Similar plebiscites were held over the islands. The plebiscite document is preserved at the archives in Seville, Spain. "This historic, but rather unknown, event was the only plebiscite known in the entire colonial history before the 20th century," Villarroel writes.

It seems propitious that Benavides, for all of his critique of colonization, became the founder of a colonial relic that is the University of Santo Tomas. But his legacy shows that Catholicism could transcend, and does transcend, its colonial roots, just as nature, in true Thomistic fashion, is perfected by grace. UST is proof of this. Nearing its fourth centennial, it continues to grow and bask in, as its own anthem goes, "unending grace."

The book, "Miguel de Benavides, O.P. (1550-1605): Friar, Bishop and University Founder," by Fidel Villarroel, O.P., will be launched tomorrow at 9 a.m. at Villa Immaculada in Intramuros. Before that, there will be a High Mass at 8 a.m. in honor of Benavides with Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Rosales as main celebrant. At 2 p.m., there will be a wreath-laying at the Benavides monument in Plaza Santo Tomas, Intramuros. A grand musical tribute to Benavides will be held at 5:30 p.m. at the UST Central Seminary.



"SMALL Pleasures" series

Sta. Ana show to benefit Children's Hour

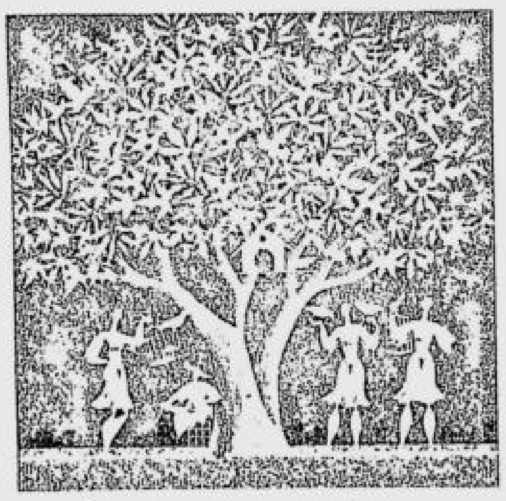
ERNIE Sta. Ana

AN ART show by Ernie Sta. Ana at Art Space in Glorietta 4 will benefit Children's Hour.

Co-sponsored by the Makati Business Club, "A Second Look for a Cause," the seventh one-man art exhibit of Sta. Ana, will benefit Children's Hour, a nonstock, nonprofit fundraising and grant-giving organization that seeks to alleviate the plight of "children in conflict with law."

The Children's Hour is also supported by Ayala Land, Inc., Ayala Cinemas, Full Circle Communications, Gallery 139, Flower Farm, Judy Rio, Mayen Saporsantos, Anthony's Wine Cellar, Big Buddha Restaurants, BreadTalk, Brooklyn Pizza, BTIC Frozen Yogurt, Burger King, Cheese Cake Etc., Cibo, Dulcinea, Good Earth Tea Room, Hot Loops, Lipton Iced Tea, Max's Bakeshop, My Little Kitchen, Purefoods-Hormel Corp., San Miguel Corp., Sapori d'Italia, Starbucks, Teriyaki Boy, Tokyo Tokyo, Triple V, Hotel Inter-Con Manila, Shangri-La Makati, and Premium Security and Investigation Agency, Inc.

"A Second Look for a Cause" runs until July 31. Call 8941663 or log on to www.childrenshour.org.ph, or e-mail ask@childrenshour.org.ph.



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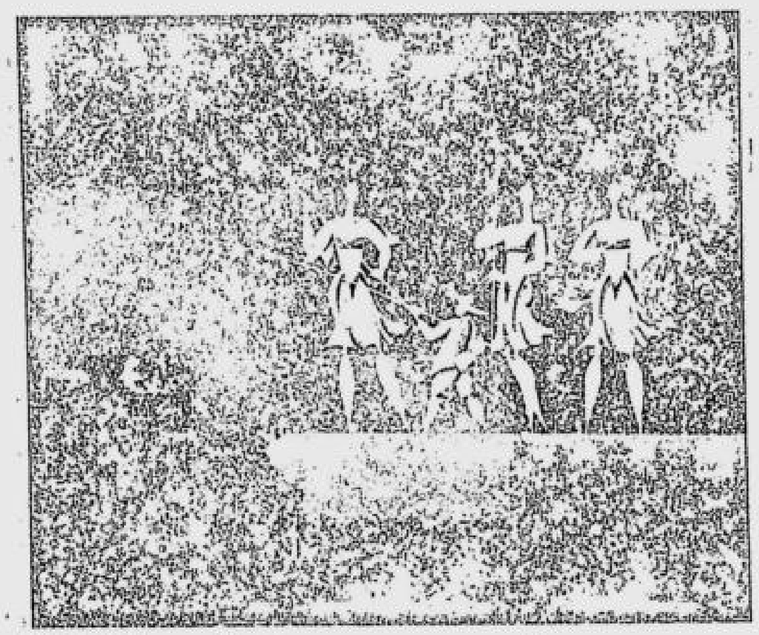


"SMALL Pleasures" series

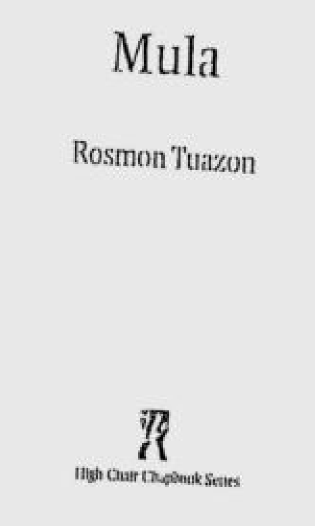
New poetry books from High Chair

HIGH Chair, a small nonprofit press that publishes poetry, has released a new set of books and the High Chair Chapbook Series.

Books launched were "Ilahás" by Mesandel Virtusio Arguelles, "Alunsina's Wrist" by Kristine Domingo, and "Kundi Akala" by Allan Popa.

Titles from the High Chair Chapbook Series include "Disappear" by Conchitina Cruz, "Unto Thee" by Mabi David, "Agaw-Liwanag" by Bomen Guillermo, "Mula" by Rosmon Tuazon, and "Slow Motion" by Lawrence Lacambra Yp-il.

Copies are available at the UP Press Bookstore and at Aeon Books. Visit www.highchair.tk or e-mail highchair@gmail.com.



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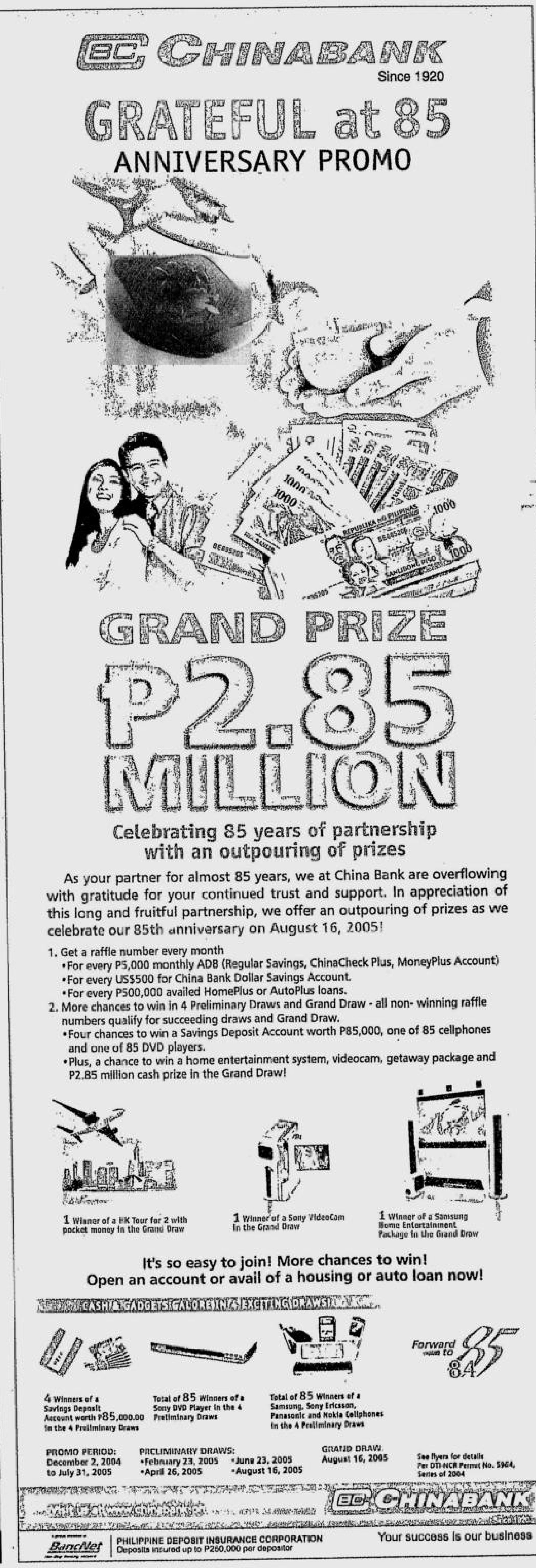

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GET 2 DAYS OF UNLIMITED TEXTING FOR ONLY ₱20.

NOW HERE TO STAY IN HIP MINI CALL CARDS!

3 Ways to enjoy 24/7 Text Unlimited Lite:

1. Buy the NEW 24/7 Text Unlimited Lite mini call cards in authorized Sun dealers and outlets. The call cards are packaged as two but can be bought individually at ₱20.00 each. If you have purchased a card without a plastic wrapper, make sure that the gray protective label has not been tampered with.
2. Purchase 24/7 Text Unlimited Lite via The Mall in your Sun cellphone. Visit The Mall then click Mall Assistant>My Account>Prepaid>Buy 24/7 and choose TU 2.
3. Purchase 24/7 Text Unlimited Lite via SMS. Text **TU<space>2** and send to **247**. Texting to 247 is free of charge.

₱20
2 days
24/7
TEXT
UNLIMITED
Lite
sun
₱20
2 days
24/7
TEXT
UNLIMITED
Lite
sun

NOTES:

- After texting the keywords to 247 or choosing 24/7 Text Unlimited Lite in The Mall, you will receive a text message containing the number series ***220#** followed by a 14-digit number string. Just load up in two ways:

  - Key in ***220#** followed by the 14-digit number string then the # sign. Ensure that there are no spaces between characters then press SEND.

  OR

  - Dial **220**, press **1** then enter the 14-digit number string.

For security purposes, it is best to load up immediately after you receive the 14-digit number string. You will need a minimum of ₱20, (exclusive of Convert-a-Load in your account) to purchase 24/7 Text Unlimited Lite via SMS or through The Mall.

- Upon successful loading you will immediately receive a text message reflecting your updated balances and 24/7 Text Unlimited expiry. Real-time loading, no need to wait!
- Should your regular load balance reach zero after loading up 24/7 Text Unlimited Lite via text, you can only send local Sun-to-Sun texts. To call and text subscribers on other networks, simply load up a regular Sun Cellular Prepaid call card.
- 24/7 loads have separate and distinct validity periods from regular Sun Cellular Prepaid loads.

choose from these 24/7 unlimited choices

	price	validity
	[illegible]	2 days
	P 50 P 150	7 days 30 days
	P 100 P 350	7 days 30 days

Applicable to local Sun-to-Sun calls & texts.

Better Network. Better Value.

sun CELLULAR PREPAID